

Collusion on interest rates discounted

'High-handed' banks cleared of unfair trading

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE high street banks were accused yesterday of being insensitive and high-handed towards small businesses, but the Office of Fair Trading cleared them of collusion in fixing interest rates.

Sir Gordon Borrie, the OFT's director general, said a review of bank practices had uncovered no grounds for action under competition laws, but he remained concerned about the number of complaints about high charges and poor service.

Sir Gordon's review was undertaken at the request of Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, after widespread complaints that banks were failing to pass on interest rate cuts to customers. The Treasury and

the Bank of England had already conducted their own review and Sir Gordon's statement yesterday lifted the threat of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission enquiry.

But having received more than 350 complaints from businessmen, he said: "I am concerned about the volume of complaints on hidden or opaque charging, lack of notice about charges, reduction of facilities at short notice and other examples of insensitive or high-handed behaviour."

Businessmen across the country had complained that they were being overcharged on loans and overdrafts, and not told about increases in charges. The Treasury report concluded, however, that only a minority had not received the full benefit of interest rate

cuts. The banks argued that interest margins on some loans had been increased to compensate for the risk of lending in the recession and for bad debts they are suffering from company failures.

Mr Lamont, who commissioned the OFT review in July, also asked the banks to draw up codes of practice to improve their service to small companies. Sir Gordon yesterday backed that idea, saying: "Effective codes of practice should give customers more assurance that they will be treated reasonably and fairly."

Midland Bank issued the first such code last week, pledging to publish a price list of its main services, give a month's notice of any change in prices, explain the bank's complaints procedure and to send details of its terms to business customers. The bank welcomed the OFT's finding that there were no grounds for legal action, saying: "We accept that concern exists about the banks' dealings with customers, but we believe our charter will go a long way to correcting any shortcomings."

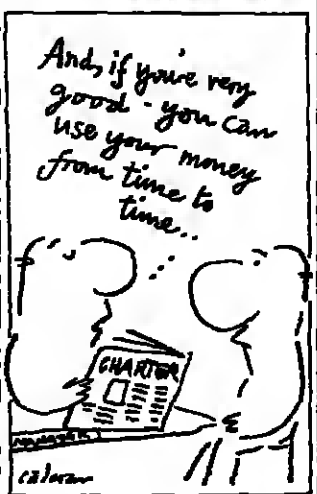
Jane Bradford, of National Westminster, said: "There are occasions when we have communicated with our customers less sensitively than they should expect," but added: "The recession is bound to place tension on the banker/customer relationship."

Sir William Clark, chairman of the Conservative backbench finance committee, said: "There is no question about it, there is evidence that many small businesses are callously treated by the banks." He hoped that Sir Gordon's criticism would spur the banks to improve the way they treated small companies.

Majorie Mowlem, Labour's spokeswoman on City affairs, said small business still had cause for complaint. A Labour government would introduce a single code of practice to govern the banks' operations and introduce a chain of "one-stop shops" that would advise small businesses on finance and provide commercial loans.

Stan Mendham, of the Forum for Private Business, said that banks were still using unfair bargaining power. "The OFT has missed the trick. Small companies do not need a charter with their bank but a legally enforceable contract to protect their interests."

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United Arab front, page 9
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Shamir relays a hardline message

From RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

IN DECIDING to lead Israel's delegation at next week's Middle East conference in Madrid, Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, has sent an unequivocal message to Arab leaders that they must not expect any concessions from the Jewish state.

It emerged yesterday, as the prime minister's office completed the list of delegates to represent Israel, that Mr Shamir is assembling a team which will represent each main facet of Israeli rightwing political thought from the pioneering Jewish settlers' movement to the backroom architects of rightwing ideology.

The move, described by one Hebrew newspaper as "going

to Madrid on two right feet", is intended to ease fears among the small, but influential extremist parties in the government coalition who have campaigned against the conference. They believe that it will force Israel into making unacceptable territorial compromises with the Arab states and the Palestinians.

The Israeli team is expected to include Israel Harel, the head of the council of Jewish communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza (the occupied territories), Yossi Ben-Aharon, the prime minister's director-general and one of the toughest ideologues in the government, as well as Likud members of the Knesset outside the cabinet who have rejected the American-led peace initiative until now.

The victim of the last-minute swing to the right was David Levy, the foreign minister, who has worked hardest in the government to lead the country to the conference, but he also succeeded in alienating the prime minister and his rightwing supporters. "There is no need for doves at Madrid," said Rehavim Zeevi, the leader of the tiny far-right Mokedet party, who took some credit for squeezing out Mr Levy and his officials.

Senior officials said yesterday that Mr Levy was smarting from his public humiliation, but that he would remain in office and increase efforts to challenge Mr Shamir for the leadership, a campaign which could gather momentum if the talks are fruitless and Mr Shamir is blamed for his provocative opening move. In addition, the Israeli leader may have made life more difficult for his supporters in the rejectionist camp because they will be expected to present their views under the scrutiny of the world media and under pressure from America to offer concessions.

Warning of clash over jails

By QUENTIN COWDRY

THE Home Office might be heading for a great confrontation with the Prison Officers' Association over the running of jails in England and Wales, the service's director has told *The Times*.

In a candid interview, Joe Pilling said there was a chance that long-running disputes over staffing levels could flare up into a full-scale clash between the Home Office and the union. If this happened, though, it would not be at the instigation of ministers or the prison department.

"I think I would be foolish to say for sure that the prison service can work its way through to a better relationship between management and unions without some great confrontation," he said.

Mr Pilling, who took charge of the service last month, said an astonishing amount of effort was wasted because of disputes. Management also needed to be urgently improved and tensions between headquarters and operational staff resolved.

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Confrontation: Seymour Hersh and Faber & Faber's publishing chairman Matthew Evans

Spy author takes on the press at their own game

Seymour M. Hersh, American author of *The Samson Option*, flew into London yesterday and flouted his investigative journalist skills like a baited bear before an onslaught of questions from those aggrieved and those curious.

The press conference to defend the allegations in his book provided the men from the *Daily Mirror* with their first chance to challenge his claims. Nick Davies, foreign editor of the paper had also flown to London yesterday, but was not present. In his corner were his deputy Mark Downey, news editor Steve Lynas, reporter Harry Arnold and, sitting quietly in the corner until the brawl ended, a legal representative who played the last move, serving writs for libel on Mr Hersh on behalf of the *Mirror* group, publisher Robert Maxwell and Mr Davies.

Mr Hersh's opening gambit was to defend Mr Davies' former wife, the actress Jacqui Fielding, explaining that she had long refused to talk to him and did so only after he had all but completed the book. She had not been paid, he added. "You will find that she is highly principled and would find it immoral to do so."

The so-called *Mirrorgate* affair opponents came out fighting yesterday reports *Lin Jenkins*

He held aloft a copy of the *Daily Mirror* with its denial from William Johnson, an American arms dealer, that he had ever met Mr Davies, and that a letter in circulation discussing a multi-million pound deal for the supply of 30 howitzers by Armtec International, based in Columbus, Ohio, was a forgery.

Mr Hersh claimed the two were in the hands of the *Daily Mail* and that Mr Johnson had identified Mr Davies to a reporter on the *Financial Times*, although Mr Johnson was now unavailable, having gone to Canada for two months.

The *FT* reporter called from the back of the room that he could confirm this, and Paul Halloran from *Private Eye* said he had been told the same.

Mr Hersh defended the validity of a text sent to Iran from the Hilton hotel,

London, appointing Nicholas Davies as an agent for arms deals with Iran. The *Daily Mirror* claimed it contained errors in the passport details, naming his father as Brian, instead of Ronald Sydney, getting his mother's name wrong and quoting the wrong passport number. Nick Davies, he said, had at least two passports.

He said that both Mr Davies and Ari Ben-Menashe, an Israeli citizen, with whom he is alleged to have set up Ora Limited to conduct arms sales, and who is the source of the allegations, found it useful for such mistakes to exist. "In their business transactions around the world Ben-Menashe and Nick found it very useful to mispell names. This did two things for them. It avoided their names being filed centrally on a computer index and gave them the obvious ability to make a disclaimer if a letter got into somebody's hands."

He said he had spoken to over a dozen people in different countries who confirmed Mr Ben-Menashe's account of an "extraordinary worldwide organisation" and "an on-going relationship in the selling of

Pupils aged 11 to get lessons on Aids

By JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION
CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN will be taught about Aids from the age of 11 under guidelines for the national curriculum published yesterday.

Compulsory coverage of HIV was among the topics in the science curriculum for 11 to 14-year-olds put forward in draft form by Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary. Inclusion had been recommended by the National Curriculum Council.

While Aids campaigners welcomed the change, some family groups were highly critical. Dr Adrian Rogers, of the Conservative Family Campaign, said the group was likely to protest to Mr Clarke. "This assumes parents are negligent and incapable of giving their own children the right message."

Dr Rogers said that he feared teachers would promote safe sex as a means to avoid Aids when the only true method was to adopt moral behaviour.

Margaret Jay, director of the National Aids Trust, said that the change was "a step forward, but only a small one". The trust has campaigned for sex education to be made compulsory in schools, with Aids sufferers brought into classrooms to show the reality of the disease.

There has been pressure to include Aids in the national curriculum after the apparent failure of government media campaigns on the subject. Until now, sex education has been at the discretion of school governors. Under Mr Clarke's plans, teaching about HIV would be included in a national curriculum topic on "life and living".

The curriculum council's proposals highlighted HIV as one of the viruses that could affect the body, rather than as an element in sex education. Its submission, made a month ago, said: "Pupils should extend their study of the ways in which the healthy functioning of the human body may be affected by diet, lifestyle, bacteria and viruses (including HIV), the abuse of solvents, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, and how the body's natural defences may be enhanced by immunisation and medicines."

WEEKEND TIMES



HUNTERS HUNTED
National Trust member Doreen Cronin is an unlikely activist, but she has placed herself squarely in the firing line in the great hunting debate, as *Weekend Times* reports

Saturday Review



TAKE A LIBERTY
Why not do your Christmas shopping without the crush this year? *The Times* and *Liberty* invite readers to exclusive shopping evenings
Saturday Review

CLASS STRUGGLE



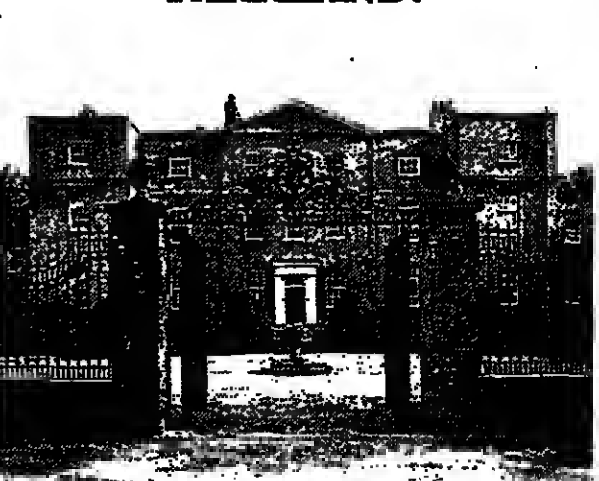
"Every time Mum opens her mouth I worry if she's going to make a fool of herself." Katie Morris's mother and cleaner have joined her comprehensive school class
Saturday Review

TODAY IN THE TIMES



BACKLASH
Was Anita Hill the victim of a backlash against feminism? Page 16
... and how effective is the law when it enters the bedroom? Page 15

A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE ONE OF HAMPSHIRE'S MOST IMPORTANT HOUSES SET IN MAGNIFICENT GROUNDS AND PARKLAND.



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Children teach their parents how to shop

By RAY CLANCY

CHILDREN are aware and sophisticated consumers able to influence their parents when it comes to buying food, environmentally friendly products and the latest fashions in clothes and footwear, according to a report published yesterday.

Television advertisements, peers and school have a more powerful influence on children than their parents, to such an extent that parents are prepared to listen to their children's demands and take them on board if they are rational and justified, says the market researcher Mintel, which found that comparisons with surveys in previous decades showed the *Niceties* child to be more concerned about the environment, more likely to want to be a vegetarian and to have a healthy lifestyle.

Television personalities such as Pam-

ela Stephenson, the comedienne who started the Parents for Safe Food pressure group in 1989, can have more influence than parents. Her endorsement of organic and green products can lead to children asking their mothers why they do not buy the same things at the supermarket.

Parents are also more likely to listen to the opinions of their children. "As well as respecting their children's individuality, they often admire their knowledge or taste," said Angela Hughes, Mintel's consumer research manager.

One of the main areas where children's influence rubs off on their parents is green issues. "I sent my son (aged 10) down to the shops for toilet paper and he came back with this recycled stuff... He said he bought it because it would save the trees. I was quite astonished," one mother told researchers.

Children begin influencing their parents at an early age, and food is usually the first area of conflict. Many working mothers are prepared to indulge their children's whims in return for an easy life. Mintel found that 10 per cent of teenagers are vegetarian and, in general, their parents are happy about it.

Fewer children are eating school meals. The number taking packed lunches to school has more than doubled since 1979. More children are also eating out, because their parents are eager for them to learn about socialising and preparing for an adult world. It is not uncommon for children as young as five to be taken to restaurants.

After food, clothes become a big area of influence, especially after school age. Girls tend to become fashion conscious from the age of five, while boys



Stephenson: influence on green buying decisions

Continued on page 22, col 1

Star chamber threat for ministers still haggling over cash

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

BIG differences between the Treasury and some spending departments are holding up a government decision on the date of the Chancellor's autumn statement on next year's spending plans.

For the first time this autumn, senior Whitehall sources yesterday raised the prospect of the star chamber, the ministerial public spending court, having to be set up to arbitrate on unresolved bids. David Mellor, the chief secretary, is still locked in dispute with William Waldegrave, the health secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, and Michael Howard, the employment secretary.

The threat of the star cham-

ber underlined the Treasury's determination to stop next year's planning total of £215 billion being exceeded. It also demonstrated that the final stages appear to be proving more awkward than expected.

Senior ministers are already reconciled to a substantial overshoot after bids some £15 billion above the planning figure. The Treasury, however, is reluctant to allow it to go more than £7 billion or £8 billion higher because of the wrong signals it would send to the City about the government's attitude to inflation.

The Treasury remained hopeful last night that agreement would be reached in time for Norman Lamont to

deliver the autumn statement as early as November 6. An informed source, however, said: "The sums at stake are still significant — significant enough to require the calling of the star chamber."

John MacGregor, the Commons leader and former chief secretary, is expected to be appointed by John Major as the star chamber chairman if it is called into action. The mere threat of the star chamber has in the past, however, persuaded ministers to settle with the chief secretary.

Earlier this week government sources had voiced the hope that the talks would have progressed far enough for Mr Mellor to give his cabinet colleagues an update yesterday. In the event, public spending was not discussed.

Mr Waldegrave is understood to have submitted a bid some £3 billion higher than the figure earmarked in the planning total. He has settled some aspects of his bid, but other areas are still unresolved. More than half the health budget goes on pay and the health secretary will be anxious to have enough money to meet politically sensitive pay awards for doctors and nurses which will be decided shortly before the general election.

Mr Rifkind is understood to be holding out for substantial sums for British Rail investment, key road projects, rail fares subsidies in the South-East and new Underground lines in London.

Mr Howard is still battling to beat off Treasury demands for a £1.1 billion cut in the training budget over the next three years. Mr Mellor has argued that employers should bear a bigger share of training costs. He has in his sights both employment training for the long-term jobless and youth training. Mr Howard is understood to be resisting strongly reductions in these areas and is examining the scope for cuts elsewhere in his budget by, for example, trimming the department's overall running costs.

However, it seems unlikely that Mr Howard will take his case to the spending court. One insider said yesterday: "I don't think the gap is in star chamber territory."

Prisons chief leaves a door open

The Times has been exploring prisons' poor industrial relations. Quentin Cowdry meets the new director

JOE Pilling, the recently installed director of the prison service in England and Wales, is remarkably relaxed for a man whose empire seems at risk of drifting again into vicious civil war. Suspiciously relaxed, perhaps.

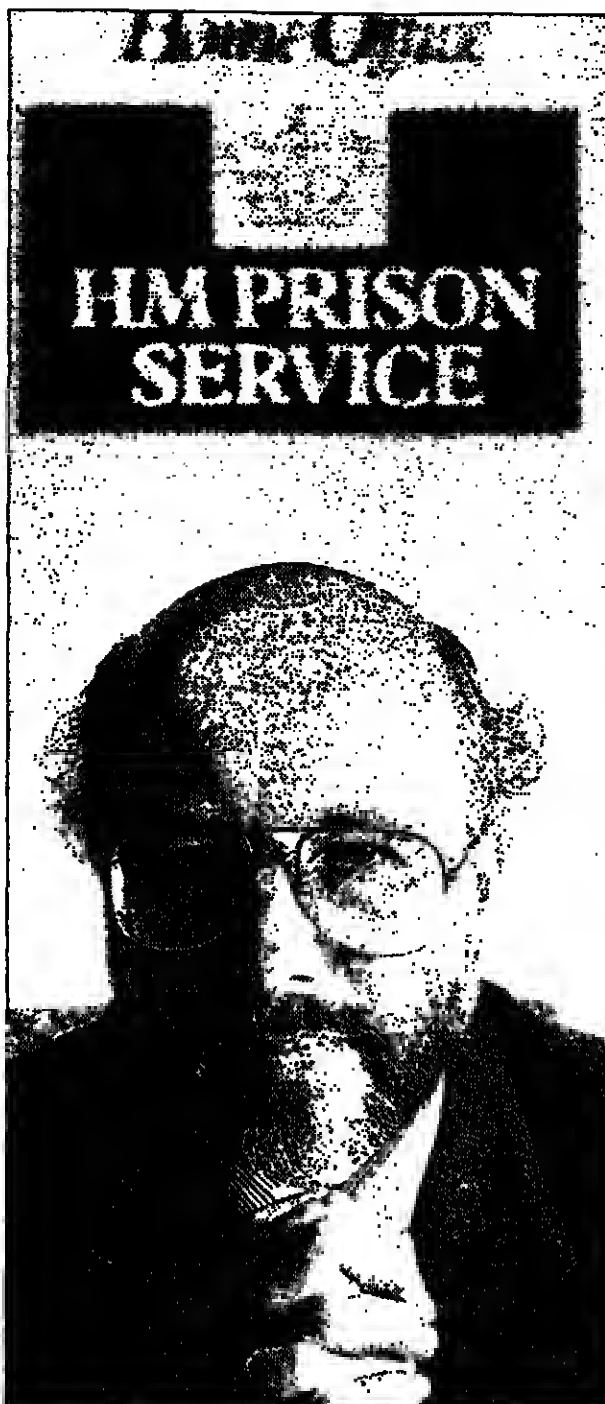
His insouciance partly stems, no doubt, from a sense of resignation: the past few years have seen the government and the Prison Officers' Association inch ever closer to outright conflict as the union's guerrilla war over alleged staff shortages has spread and ministers' patience with the hugely expensive and accident-prone prison system has thinned.

Recently, however, signs have emerged that ministers would not be displeased if the predicted showdown came before the general election. Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, and Angela Rumbold, his hawkish prisons minister, have been confiding privately that they would like to "break" the association and plans to recognise the breakaway Prison Service Union have been brought forward.

At establishment level, governors — struggling to settle disputes in 45 of the 123 English and Welsh jails — have toughened their stance. When the governor of Wakefield jail threatened on Monday to suspend staff if they continued a work-to-rule, he did so having received a personal pledge of support from Mr Baker.

Such straws in the wind have persuaded some political observers that John Major might just see merit in tackling the association now. Could the humbling of John Bartell, the association's chairman, do for the Tories in the election what the quashing of General Galtieri did in 1983?

Mr Pilling, predictably, discounts the conspiracy theory. Wakefield's governor, he said, had needed no encouragement to give his staff an ultimatum, having put up with seven months of industrial action. If police had had to be drafted in to run the jail it would not have been a "first".



Inside story: Pilling, who cannot discount some great confrontation between union and management

However, there was little attempt to dispel the feeling that a full-scale clash may be imminent in spite of the huge risks involved. When the Home Office last took on the Prison Officers' Association nationally, in April 1986, riots erupted in 47 jails. "I think I would be foolish to say for sure that the prison service can work its way through to a better relationship between management and unions without some great confrontation," Mr Pilling said, choosing his words with care. "It's something the service will be prepared for, but it will not be of management's making and, I'm sure, not of the

home secretary's making." Although highly critical of the association's intransigent, adversarial approach, Mr Pilling accepts that the public under-values prison officers. Lack of job status, combined with the ever present risk of being assaulted by inmates, has bred defensiveness and a fierce sense of group identity akin to that felt by miners.

Mr Pilling maintains, however, that the association's "militancy" is not party political. "Officers are, on the whole, small 'c' conservative members of society. They are not political extremists," Mr

Pilling, whose elfin stature belies his formidable intellect and negotiating abilities, is unwilling to lay all the prison department's troubles at the association's door.

He identifies the service's biggest weakness as being its lack of a strong corporate identity and the suspicion and often downright antagonism that divides its 2,000 headquarters staff and its 32,000 governors and officers. Management, he believes, must largely shoulder the blame for such disunity.

He believes the service can heal its wounds and unite around Lord Justice Woolf's prison reform agenda if the association finally accepts that its behaviour is self-defeating and managers at all levels display show strong visible leadership — a need highlighted by Woolf.

Mr Pilling suggested, however, and with surprising candour, that completion of the task might require a further distancing of his department from the Home Office. The transformation of the department into an executive agency, giving it, in particular, greater financial flexibility, would help, he said.

"One of problems with the prison service is that it is directly driven by civil servants and largely made up of civil servants. This can produce a certain ambiguity of role for us," he said. Other important public services such as the police and the national health service were equally accountable to Parliament, but enjoyed greater operational freedom.

Asked how much ministers interfered with his work, he replied, with a broad smile: "They are closely involved in my work in a way which I find refreshing and invigorating."

Mr Pilling, aged 45, a career administrator who joined the civil service after graduating from London University, denied claims that he was unenthusiastic about penal reform. When, soon after taking charge of the service last month, he had visited Brixton jail's notorious psychiatric wing, he had decided immediately that disturbed people could not be held in such conditions. By next spring all mentally disturbed prisoners sent to London jails will be held in prison hospitals.

He emphasised, however, that he was anxious to fulfil both parts of the service's statement of purpose. "We must hold inmates secure and try to ensure that we reduce the chances of them reoffending after release."

Protest at IRA raid threatens benefits

By EDWARD GORMAN
IRISH AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

INDUSTRIAL action by Northern Ireland civil servants in the wake of an IRA attack on a social security fraud officer in County Tyrone on Tuesday is threatening to seriously disrupt the claims of thousands of people in central London.

Yesterday Jeremy Hanley, the minister for health and social services at the Northern Ireland Office, accused the IRA of indirectly disrupting the lives of tens of thousands of people in London who rely on the social security system for a range of benefits.

Mr Hanley said he sympathised with the decision of staff at social security offices throughout the province and at a centre in Belfast, which processes claims for central London, to close their offices in protest at the attack, but expressed his concern at the "undesirable" consequences.

The walk-out began after three masked IRA men burst into a social security office in Pomeroy, County Tyrone, on Tuesday and dragged a fraud officer outside. They kicked and beat the man, who was treated in hospital for lacerations and bruising.

The IRA said they carried out the attack in protest at what the organisation claimed was the "harassment" of the public by DHSS fraud prevention staff.

Costly computer

The cost of a computerised accounting system installed by the Foreign Office has more than doubled from an estimated £560,000 to £1.2 million, and the comptroller and auditor general has expressed concern that the system may still be inefficient and expensive. Sir John Bourn said yesterday that he had withheld full approval of one Foreign Office account "on the grounds of uncertainty".

Boxer responds

The boxer Michael Watson is now breathing without the help of a life-support machine but progress continues to be slow, the consultant caring for him at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, said yesterday. Mr Watson, who has been in a coma since he was injured in a world title fight more than four weeks ago, was responding to light and to touch, Mr Peter Hanly said, but he remained critical but stable.

Boys raped girl

An Old Bailey judge yesterday ordered two boys to be detained for a total of nine years for the rape of a 16-year-old girl. The two boys, who were aged 15 and 16 at the time of the attack, raped their victim while she was being threatened with a sword. The older boy was ordered to be detained for five years and the other boy, who also came from Paddington, west London, for four years.

Soviet visit

Soviet personnel are to take part in a British military exercise for the first time since the second world war. A Soviet team will visit the UK to take a role in an exercise known as Hensley 7/91 next week. The exercise is designed to practice reception and escorting procedures for the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty, which was signed last November.

CORRECTION

In later editions of *The Times* yesterday the captions on Lord Lane and Lord Keith of Kinkel were transposed.

By the way, the Times overseas edition is available in the following countries: Australia \$25, Canada \$15, France 100F, Germany 100M, Italy 100L, Japan 100Y, New Zealand \$15, Norway 100N, Sweden 100S, Switzerland 100F, Taiwan 100T, Thailand 100B, USA \$15, USSR 100R, Yugoslavia 100D.

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Super solicitors to help you check out

By BILL FROST

SUPERMARKET shoppers are to be assisted for the next week by solicitors, wearing turquoise Lycra body-stockings, black cod-pieces and flowing white sash capes, urging them to make a will.

A flamboyant Law Society campaign, aimed at ensuring fewer of us die intestate, will transform these sober professionals to ply their trade as superhero Will Power at Sainsbury's stores in Cambridge, Preston and Peterborough.

Not every solicitor playing a part in the campaign is willing to dress up. The vast majority will stick to the dark suit as they set up their stalls at 100 supermarkets from the far north to the tip of Cornwall.

The campaign has been prompted by a Gallup survey which shows that fewer than one in three adults has made a will — many for the simple reason that they prefer not to think about death.

Make a Will week, which begins tomorrow, will cost the Law Society £200,000. But, if the campaign succeeds, solicitors stand to reap a rich harvest. The average cost of making a will is about £50 and there are hundreds of thou-



Will Power: ready to talk death at the till

sands out there who have not. To encourage the falterers, the Law Society, keen on promoting post-life extravagance, yesterday produced a list of interesting things one can do with one's goods and chattels after death. A Texas oil millionaire's wife demanded that she be laid to rest at the wheel of her favourite Ferrari, wearing her best lace nightgown. At the other extreme is the woman who chose to be buried with components from her Ford Anglia.

Mr Howard is still battling to beat off Treasury demands for a £1.1 billion cut in the training budget over the next three years. Mr Mellor has argued that employers should bear a bigger share of training costs. He has in his sights both employment training for the long-term jobless and youth training. Mr Howard is understood to be resisting strongly reductions in these areas and is examining the scope for cuts elsewhere in his budget by, for example, trimming the department's overall running costs.

However, it seems unlikely that Mr Howard will take his case to the spending court. One insider said yesterday: "I don't think the gap is in star chamber territory."

Teachers' pay restraint urged

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE government yesterday confirmed its determination to hold down public sector salaries in a tough submission to the new teachers' pay review body.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, countered a series of high pay claims from teachers' unions with a plea to the review body for restraint to make room for more performance-related pay. Without putting a figure on a suggested rise, his submission pointed to a "need for a further significant downward adjustment in pay settlements in the public sector in the private sector".

The three largest teaching unions have put in for rises of over 15 per cent. Mr Clarke, however, cited the easing of

teacher shortages, lower inflation and more moderate pay settlements in support of a much smaller increase.

The government's evidence to the review body called for performance-related pay to become an integral part of school management and a central feature of pay.

"The resources for performance-related pay should be found by devoting a larger proportion of the pay bill to discretionary payments, rather than through higher increases in the total pay bill than would otherwise be the case." While admitting that governors faced complications in the implementation of rewards for performance for classroom teachers, Mr Clarke

said that heads and deputies could already have their salaries related to a two-year appraisal cycle.

Mr Clarke took issue with headteachers and governors who have claimed that low pay is holding down the quality of recruits to the teaching force. "Quality cannot be assessed purely in statistical terms; there is, for instance, no simple relationship between academic qualifications and performance in the classroom."

Although Mr Clarke conceded that shortages of secondary teachers would persist in some subjects, he maintained that official forecasts suggested no difficulties in primary schools.

Policy of community care is criticised

By NICK NUTTALL

MOVING schizophrenics from long-term institutions into the community is having worrying results on their lives, according to a report published today in the *British Medical Journal*.

Studies by a team at St Thomas's and Guy's hospitals in London appear to support critics who have argued that the policy, which has been in effect in Britain and America since the 1960s, contributes to homelessness and crime.

Of 140 schizophrenics studied, more than a fifth were functioning at very poor or severely maladjusted levels one year after being discharged from hospital.

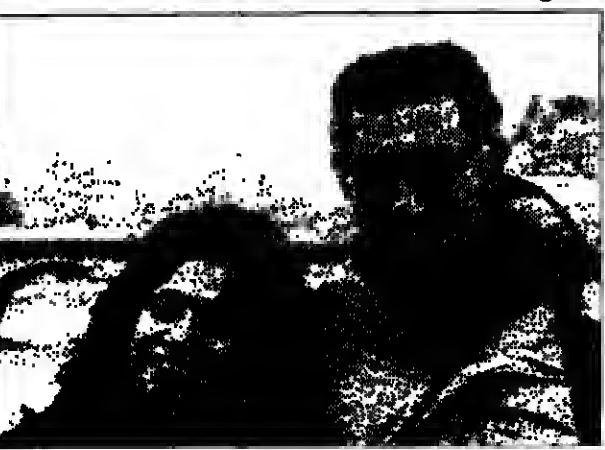
Over a half were suffering from psychotic mental conditions. Nearly 90 per cent were unemployed and two were homeless. Four had been imprisoned and four had died during the study, three of them in apparent suicides.

Most still had contact with a health professional after release but only 16 per cent were in halfway houses, places that are considered the first staging post after being institutionalised. Instead over three quarters went from the institution and straight to a boarding house or other independent type of accommodation with no support staff.

"As access to a full range of supported housing is a cornerstone of successful community care, these findings are not reassuring and further study of the detailed requirements for supported housing is urgently needed," the researchers say.

The study covered patients in the inner London districts of west Lambeth and Lewisham, which are among the most socially deprived areas in Britain. The patients surveyed were aged 18 to 65 and had been discharged between November 1987 and April 1989. Most, nearly 70 per cent, said they were living alone.

Hit-and-run baby doing well



Mr and Mrs Levin and their daughter Francesca

A BABY delivered by caesarean section after her mother was seriously injured in a hit-and-run accident was said to be very well in hospital yesterday. The mother, Patricia Levin, has not recovered consciousness since suffering head, leg and pelvic injuries in the incident on Tuesday and has not seen 6th 13oz Francesca, her first child.

She was due to give birth in two weeks' time but surgeons

at Guy's Hospital, London, operated to deliver her child because of concern about the injuries she suffered after being knocked down near her home in Westwood Park, southeast London. Mrs Levin, an Argentinean language teacher, was said to be in a serious but stable condition in the intensive care unit.

Nurses have told her she has a daughter but do not know

whether she is able to hear them. Her husband Michael said: "My wife was really enjoying her pregnancy. Our life together was just perfect. It is a blessing the baby is OK. She's a little version of her mother. I am very concerned for my wife."

Police investigating the incident are looking for a red Ford Fiesta which was being driven by a white woman aged about 40.

Banks and small businesses

Bounced cheque dooms firm

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

LAST week David Rowland was a director of a thriving stone masonry company in Bristol with 15 employees and annual sales of £1.2 million. Yesterday Midland Bank sent receivers into the company.

Mr Rowland feels he has been a victim of the insensitive and high-handed behaviour of the banks which has been criticised by the Office of Fair Trading. He and his solicitor are now seriously considering legal action against Midland.

The dispute between Rowland Stone, his company, and Midland began six weeks ago when the company and its accountants met the bank to renew its £100,000 overdraft for another year. The manager at Midland's commercial branch in Bristol asked Mr Rowland and his brother, the

company's other director, to put up their houses as security to guarantee the loan as it was concerned about the firm's future. Mr Rowland and his brother rejected the demand but offered to put up the company's assets as additional security.

The manager was, however, insistent and Mr Rowland called in his solicitor to help to negotiate. Matters came to a head last week when the bank wrote to the brothers and told them they had 48 hours to put their homes up as security on the overdraft.

When the day came, Mr Rowland asked for more time, but by then it was too late. The bank bounced a cheque to a supplier which would have put the company less than £500 above its agreed overdraft, even though they had

funds which they were waiting to pay into their account.

A bounced cheque normally destroys a company in the construction industry, and Rowland Stone was no exception. Last weekend, as news of the cheque spread, the company's contract labour was withdrawn and it was thrown of many of the sites where it had been working.

By Monday, Mr Rowland had no choice but to tell the bank that his company was illiquid and asked them to call in the receivers. Ernst & Young arrived yesterday.

"We think it is crazy to sacrifice a company for the sake of £500," said Mr Rowland. "We feel the bank has just not acted responsibly."

The bank refused to comment due to customer confidentiality.

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Judge says US sex harassment case must not sway jury

By MICHAEL HORSNELL AND RICHARD DUCE

PERSONAL views about the allegations of sexual harassment against the American judge Clarence Thomas should not be allowed to sway the views of a jury considering a slander case between two doctors, a court was told yesterday.

Mr Justice Otton, during his summing up to the High Court action brought by Dr Malcolm Smith, aged 35, against Dr Alan Houston, told the jury that the Senate hearing had resulted in "our awareness of inter-gender relationships in the workplace being heightened and made more sensitive".

Such relationships might never be the same again in offices, hospitals, doctors' surgeries, barristers' chambers — or perhaps in the jury room and judges' corridors, he said. "But you must be careful not to allow your views to affect your judgment of this unique case," he said. "He said it would be unfair to ask the jury of seven men and five women to forget the harassment allegations made by Anita Hill against Clarence Thomas."

Last night the jury had failed to agree on a verdict and were sent home for the night.

Dr Smith, of Duston, Northampton, accuses Dr Houston, aged 47, of Harrogate, Northampton, of slandering him in front of staff and patients at their shared surgery two years ago.

He claims she accused him of groping her staff at the premises in East Hunsbury, Northampton, and that she said: "We have all had enough of you feeling our breasts, pinching our bottoms and brushing up against us."

Dr Smith has also said that he endured an investigation by the deputy chief constable of Northamptonshire, who later said that the allegations made against him were groundless.

However, Dr Houston, a married mother of two sons and three stepdaughters, disputes what she is alleged to have said and has told the court she did not come into it. She was not accusing him of sexual harassment, but of generally harassing and picking on her staff. She was also annoyed about him brushing up against her, although this was not sexual.

Mr Justice Otton said both Dr Smith, a bachelor, and Dr Houston were talented doc-

tors. "Like many marriages this partnership was out made in heaven and it fell apart. The two partners were incompatible. If anyone was to blame it is not for us to apportion it."

The jury was entitled to take into account the fact that Dr Houston had not apologised to Dr Smith. A cloud had been hovering over Dr Smith for two years "in circumstances where they are actually sharing the same premises".

If the jury decided he was entitled to an award it must be a fair and reasonable one. "It must not be miserly, because the public might be left with the impression that there was some smoke, some fire. It must be such as to vindicate him and clear his name. It must not be wildly excessive."

The jury might find it to be a serious slander, but on the other hand it might regard it as a storm in a teacup in which Dr Smith over-reacted and Dr Houston acted hastily and in bad temper and had taste.

If Dr Smith was right about what Dr Houston had said, her comments would be damaging to a doctor required to carry out intimate examinations as part of his work. It would be harmful to his reputation if he was thought to be a "gropier".

If the jurors came to the conclusion that Dr Houston made an unjustified allegation about female staff being harassed, then that was a serious matter. If they found that she made and persisted in an allegation that she had been sexually harassed by a fellow doctor, they might think it was a matter for condemnation.

After four hours, the jury had failed to reach a verdict. The judge sent the jurors home, telling them that he thought they needed a break and that they need not rush.

Both doctors were present in court yesterday.



Time off: Lilliane Preisler with her first son at home yesterday. The former broker says she was forced out of her job after taking time off to have the baby.

£150,000 broker 'worth more'

A MONEY broker who claims she was forced out of her City job after taking time off to have a baby said yesterday that she had been worth at least £50,000-a-year more than she was paid.

Lilliane Preisler, aged 31, told an industrial tribunal in Chelsea, west London, that she asked for her £150,000 package at Euro Brokers Capital Markets to be raised to £160,000.

She knew from approaches by competitors that she was worth up to £220,000. The approaches were made even before she signed a two-year contract in 1989, she said.

Mrs Preisler, of Golder's Green, northwest London, is claiming sexual discrimination and constructive dismissal against the company. She said that she was forced to leave her job last January after being passed over for promotion and because promised bonuses and incentive payments were not delivered.

Mrs Preisler worked for the firm as a swaps broker from October 1987 until leaving to have her baby in March last year. She returned to work on January 2 this year for just over a week before resigning. She now has two children.

Clody Buggios, the company's managing director, said that she never intended to promote Mrs Preisler to the position of manager. The company has claimed the amount of Mrs Preisler's bonuses was never agreed.

The hearing was adjourned until today.

Broadmoor patient 'died after injection'

By QUENTIN COWDRY
ROME AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

A PATIENT at a top-security psychiatric hospital died within three minutes of being injected with three times the recommended dose of a drug, an inquest was told yesterday.

Orville Blackwood, aged 31, who suffered from schizophrenia and depression, was given two injections after he had become violent towards staff at Broadmoor hospital, Berkshire.

Professor Malcolm Lader, who examined the body, told the inquest at Bracknell that the normal dose for Sparine was 50 milligrams, but larger injections were allowed in special circumstances. Blackwood had been injected in the buttocks with 150 mgs, together with a similar amount of another drug.

The most likely explanation for his death in August was that the needle was placed too close to a vein, Professor Lader said. "When the plunger of the syringe was pulled back and then pushed in, a slight movement could have resulted in the needle going into the vein."

Professor Lader, of London University, said that Blackwood had suffered acute heart failure. That may have been brought on by a rush of drugs straight to the heart.

Blackwood, from southwest London, was sent to Broadmoor after being convicted of robbing a post office.

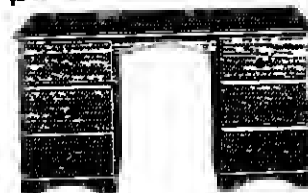
The hearing continues today.

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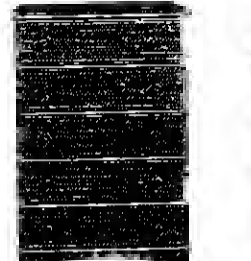
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Women's retirement delayed

WOMEN who want full pensions from their employers are having to work longer, a survey published yesterday indicates. More than eight out of ten companies which have introduced a common retirement age for men and women since an equality ruling by the European Court of Justice have chosen 65.

The survey by the Confederation of British Industry and pensions experts Mercer Fraser, covering four million employees, shows a trend towards raising women's retirement age from 60 rather than lowering the men's age. Robbie Gilbert, the CBI's director of employment affairs, told its annual pensions conference in London yesterday: "This makes sense in terms of women's ambitions to remain economically active longer, to share fully career opportunities open to men and of course, life expectancy. Earlier pensions ages for all would simply load the cost of previous generations of employees on to the current generation and is especially unjustified during recession."

Marital rape hard to prove, police say

By PETER VICTOR

POLICE will have to adopt new methods when investigating allegations of rape within marriage, after Wednesday's ruling by the law lords.

Detective superintendent Barbara Wilding, who dealt with one of the first successful prosecutions for rape within marriage, said the normal methods of detection would be useless in many cases. "In any allegation of rape our policy is to believe the victim," she said. "The evidence required for a successful prosecution, however, is much more stringent. The Crown Prosecution Service has to believe that there is a likelihood of success. "Rape is an easy allegation to make and extremely difficult to prove. The normal forensic methods often will be unsuitable if the couple have been having sex with consent."

In the case with which Ms Wilding dealt, the degree of injury and the speed with which the offence was reported was important. "Forensically, we had no corroboration whatsoever, but we did have evidence from the

bruising, which fitted exactly with what the victim said had happened to her," she said.

In spite of the expected problems, the Association of Chief Police Officers yesterday welcomed the ruling and called for statutory backing. "We're all for it. We see no reason why it should not be enshrined in statute."

The Law Society, meanwhile, will meet in two weeks' time to discuss guidelines.

Lawyers in Scotland, where marital rape has been illegal for two years, have been hampered by the difficulty in proving rape within the home and the reluctance of alleged victims to appear in court (Kerry Gill writes).

Scottish Women's Aid said that corroborative evidence from a doctor or neighbour would have to be produced to prove that rape had taken place.

The Crown Office in Edinburgh said that only a handful of prosecutions for marital rape had been heard in Scotland since the 1989 ruling, and none had led to conviction.

*Truth the victim? Page 15

TV swearing ban opposed

FEW viewers believe the strongest of swearwords should be banned altogether from television, a survey of bad language in broadcasting has found.

The Broadcasting Standards Council found that the word "f---" is fast losing its power to shock and offend television viewers.

Lord Rees-Mogg, chairman of the council, said the word was "slipping the way of bloody", and predicted that in 40 years' time, would have lost its force. "Then we will be having discussions about other words probably higher in the rankings than the 'F' word," he said.

He said that "f---" still offended people born before the second world war, but did not bother those born after the Vietnam war. More frequent usage off-screen has made the word more acceptable on-screen, the report, *A Matter of Manners* — *The Limits of Broadcasting Language*, found. "It is used in private conversation by professors now," Lord Rees-Mogg said. Andrea Millwood Hargrave, editor of the report,

Script writers will have to stoop lower to shock as television audiences become immune to once-taboo words, Melinda Wittstock reports

said none of those questioned felt there should be "a laundry list of words to be banned". She said that more people were "annoyed by the cumulative effect of constant repetition of the word bloody than the use of the 'F' word in one place".

However, the 300 viewers asked by the council to watch out for bad language over a two-week period said that swearwords should be justified by the event and context of the programme.

Although "f---" is not considered too offensive as an expletive, viewers said they were against its literal use as a verb or noun. A clip from *The Laughter of God* in which a woman said to her lover "I am going to f--- you senseless", provoked a strong reaction.

Swearing is, however, still the biggest cause of complaint among viewers, particularly when perceived as

gratuitous, Lord Rees-Mogg said. He is to warn broadcasters about bad language at a meeting with the heads of all broadcasting organisations. He will tell them to ensure that programmes containing swearwords are adequately labelled and that bad language is not broadcast before the 9pm "family watershed". Lord Rees-Mogg said broadcasters belonged to "a youngish metropolitan group whose attitude to language is significantly different from that of their audience".

However, Roger Graef, the film maker and founding member of Channel 4, who has contributed an article to the report, said the survey showed a great deal of tolerance. "The purpose may have been to show a holed of unrest, but it has helped show the opposite."

Leading article, page 17

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Tinier more to dial

By Noel Hawkes

PARIS — The law which says that people who are more likely to be involved in accidents late in life should be given a discount on their car insurance is a welcome move, says a leading insurance expert. The law, which was passed in 1989, says that people who are 65 or over should be given a 10% discount on their car insurance. The expert, who is a member of the French Insurance Association, says that the law is a good idea because it encourages people to drive more safely. He also says that the law is a good idea because it encourages people to drive more safely.

Teacher in jail to get his diaries

ALFRED, a teacher who has been in jail for three years, has been ordered to get his diaries. The diaries, which were found in his home, were said to contain information about his pupils. The teacher, who is now 45, was found guilty of having had sexual relations with his pupils. He was sentenced to three years in jail. The diaries, which were found in his home, were said to contain information about his pupils. The teacher, who is now 45, was found guilty of having had sexual relations with his pupils. He was sentenced to three years in jail.

Tinier babies more prone to diabetes

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

BABIES with low birth weights are much more likely to develop diabetes late in life, a Medical Research Council study has shown.

A study of 468 men born in Hertfordshire between 1920 and 1930 indicates that those weighing less than 5½lb at birth were six times more likely to develop the oestrogen-dependent form of diabetes by the age of 64 than those who weighed more than 9½lb. The chances of developing the condition increased progressively with decreasing birth weight and decreasing weight at the age of one.

The team responsible for

the finding, from Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, and the Medical Research Council's environmental epidemiology unit at Southampton General Hospital, have also shown that reduced birth weight is also strongly linked in high blood pressure in later life. Earlier work by the Southampton team had established a similar link between birth weight and deaths from heart disease.

Professor Nick Hales, of Addenbrooke's, said yesterday that the study could explain why late-onset diabetes, which generally affects those over 50, is linked to high blood pressure. "Our study raises the possibility that the link may be retarded growth in the womb," he said.

Professor David Barker, of the Southampton unit, said that insulin-producing cells were known to develop mainly while the baby was in the womb or in early infancy. "It seems reasonable to propose that nutritional and other factors determining growth in the womb and during infancy will influence insulin production in the adult."

Reporting the results in the *British Medical Journal*, the team proposes that diabetes is a disease caused by poor nutrition in the womb and early life, followed by much better nutrition later in life. The bad start impairs the body's ability to produce insulin, but this only becomes important when nutrition improves later in life and demand for insulin increases. Unable to produce enough, the individual develops late-onset diabetes.

One of the clearest examples of this occurred when Ethiopian Jews migrated to Israel, experiencing a change from poor to good nutrition. Many developed diabetes. A similar explanation may apply to many Western diseases, the team suggests, including heart disease.

Teacher in jail to get his diaries

A TEACHER jailed for sex offences against boy pupils has won the right to have his intimate diaries returned because they were unlawfully seized under a court order.

Three Court of Appeal judges heard yesterday that more than 100 diaries written by Antony Edmonds, aged 40, of Portsmouth, contained details of many sexual encounters with pupils. A psychiatrist had said that Edmonds's diaries, not wholly devoted to sex, were "essential to his being". The boarding school teacher wrote: "It is the confiscation which is the unbearable punishment for me."

Lord Justice McCowan, with Mr Justice Tucker and Mr Justice Ian Kennedy, said the diaries should not have been seized because they could not be regarded in law as "facilitating the commission of further crime". A forfeiture order made by Mr Justice Drake after he sentenced Edmonds in July last year was therefore unlawful.



Royal arms: the Princess of Wales greeting her sons William, left, and Harry, on Britannia in Toronto harbour. They travelled separately to Canada for security reasons

Pre-Raphaelite renaissance

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

THE best group of Pre-Raphaelite paintings to be offered at auction since the slump began goes under the hammer at Christie's today, intriguing the art world.

The 14 paintings, by such artists as William Holman-Hunt and Arthur Hughes, have been given a total estimate of £1.5 million, and their vendor is the mysterious-sounding Pre-Raphaelite Trust Inc.

Julian Hartnoll, the agent for the collection, acknowl-

edges that "selling now is a gamble, but the market isn't as bad as everybody says".

The collection, he says, was acquired from the Fifties to the Seventies out of genuine appreciation by a wealthy Frenchman who died in an accident in 1983. His heirs are following Mr Hartnoll's advice to sell now.

Star items in the collection include *Oriana* by Holman-Hunt and Hughes, a painting of a knight and his lady illustrating a poem by Ten-

nyson. Bought by the novelist Evelyn Waugh for 120 guineas in 1961, it was sold at Sotheby's Belgravia ten years later for £1,800. Christie's estimate is now £120,000 in £140,000.

Potential buyers include Isabel Goldsmith, daughter of the businessman James Goldsmith, and Andrew Lloyd Webber, who paid £1 million for a painting last year.

Mr Hartnoll had traced one of the paintings up for auction, Evelyn de Morgan's *The Angel with the Serpent*, to a farm in north Devon in 1975, only to find that all but one hand had been painted over.

The retired civil servant and great great nephew of the artist who owned it said he hated the painting, except for that one hand, and so had had the rest painted out.

"He offered to sell it to me for £50, but I said 'No, let me clean it and then I'll give you a better offer,'" Mr Hartnoll said. But when the work was cleaned, the owner, who had just been diagnosed as having cancer, changed his mind. "He said: 'I'll enjoy looking at this angel before I die.'" It could now fetch up to £100,000.

Woman in the news

Publisher with green fingers

BY SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

GAIL REBUCK, the new head of the Random Century publishing group, has, at the age of 39, a formidable reputation in the industry. Hilary Rubinstein, the literary agent, said: "She may be young but you must remember she's been around for a long time."

Since the beginning of Century, a reference in Century Publishing, which Miss Rebeck co-founded in 1982.

She was named as successor to Anthony Cheetham, chairman and chief executive of Random Century, by Alberto Vitale, president of the American parent company, Random House. "She has a way of putting her finger on the very thing everyone's been avoiding," a colleague said. "She's a motivator and troubleshooter, and that's why I suspect Vitale went straight to her."

After the Lycée Français in London, Miss Rebeck read intellectual history at Sussex University. After a period as a tourist guide in Europe, she joined a children's publishing company as a packager, then Barrie and Jenkin, which had

the Nicholson guide books. She revived the imprint with a relaunch of the London street map, using Loodoo taxi drivers as researchers. She founded Century with Mr Cheetham and both went with the company in Random.

She has a reputation for "green fingers": the ability to take sapling companies and revive them, and to see the potential in projects before anyone else. Ebury Press came

in Random Century at the same time as she did, in 1989, and became her project. It had a respectable back list but no front list. Now it rides high with publications such as Anton Mosimann's cookery book *Naturally*, Anita Roddick's autobiography and Callan Pinckney's exercise book *Callanetics*.

She met her husband, Philip Gould, at university. Her two daughters, Georgia and Grace, are five and two (Grace was born on the day of the Century Hutchinson merger with Random). Mr Gould, a media consultant, said: "Where she is formidable is that she can take Georgia to school at 9.15 and be completely in tune with her and Grace, but then it's hammer and tongs at the office till 6.15, after which she belongs to the children again."

Miss Rebeck said: "Big publishing houses have taken a knocking in the publishing press, but what they can provide in a period of recession is stability, giving writers and publishers relative security in which to develop."



Rebeck: motivator with the revitalising touch

Test case on pollution

GREENPEACE was yesterday given permission to bring a High Court test case challenging the way the National Rivers Authority is carrying out its duty to protect rivers and seas from pollution.

The environmental group was granted leave by Mr Justice Brooke to seek a declaration that the authority has failed properly to monitor a chemical plant which, Greenpeace says, is illegally polluting the Irish Sea with

toxic heavy metals. Owen Davies, for Greenpeace, said Albright and Wilson, which makes products for the detergent industry at Marchon, Cumbria, was discharging "an extraordinary emanation of liquid 24 hours a day containing extremely nasty toxins".

The judge said the rivers authority was "its own worst enemy" for not attending court to defend its actions.

No date was set for the full hearing of the case.

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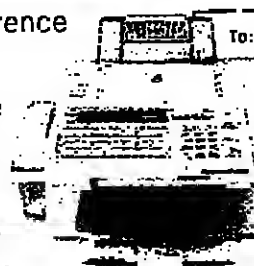
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Minister to investigate late payment of student grants

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ALAN HOWARTH, the higher education minister, yesterday promised an investigation into delays in the payment of student grants which have left some students at the mercy of their bank managers for almost a month.

The scale of this year's rise in the number of higher education entrants has left many local authorities struggling to cope with the volume of grant applications. Some students have been warned they might have to wait until Christmas for their cheques.

In a radio interview yesterday, Mr Howarth pinned the blame squarely on the education authorities, which he said had been given an extra 16 per cent to administer grants.

"I don't think there are any excuses at all," he said. "They are fully funded to pay. They are funded to carry out this task and it ought to be treated as a priority task."

"We are talking of a number of backsliding authorities, and my department is investigating the reported cases," he added. He advised students

who were still waiting for their grants to ask for payment on account from their local authority, or to apply to college hardship funds. Students are mounting a series of protests to highlight their financial plight, which they say has worsened since the introduction of student loans and the freezing of welfare benefits.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said that the difficulties had been created by the government. Financial pressures had left

departments understaffed to cope with an increase in student numbers well beyond that forecast by ministers.

A month into her first term as an undergraduate at Thames Polytechnic, Ellen Thompson has still not received her student grant (Louise Hidalgo writes).

She is managing by borrowing from friends and family until her £995 grant cheque for the first term comes through from Hackney borough council. A 24-year-old humanities student, Ellen is already £120 overdrawn and owes four weeks' rent.

When she heard she was eligible for a full London grant of £2,845 for the year, because her parents were unable to help her financially, Ellen was delighted. However, when registering for the new term on September 25, she found her grant cheque had not arrived.

Hackney education directorate said yesterday the delay in sending out grant cheques had been caused by the glut of applications received this year. Outstanding cheques would be despatched by the end of next week, it said.



Flight of fancy: unperturbed geese get on with the serious business of eating as sculptor Alan Jack, of Longlevens, Gloucestershire, yesterday installs *Pitchfork Stork*, one of 19 scrap metal birds and insects created over the past ten years, which he has now lent to the county's Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge

Skills programme 'in trouble'

THE government is having growing difficulty meeting its guarantees of training places for school-leavers and young long-term adult jobless, Labour claimed yesterday on the basis of a new survey (Nicholas Wood writes).

Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary, said that a survey of the 82 employer-led training and enterprise councils (Tecs) by the all-party Commons

employment select committee showed that almost all were experiencing big problems.

"The letters show unequivocally that many Tecas are having difficulty in meeting the government's guarantee of a training place [and] that the recession is badly hitting employers' contributions," Mr Blair said.

Serious concern about the quality and quantity of training was being expressed in

virtually every part of the country, and without more money, Britain's skills crisis would intensify.

Earlier this week, Michael Howard, the employment secretary, who is still baulking against Treasury pressure for employers to bear a bigger share of training costs, insisted that the government would meet its pledges. Yesterday the employment department repeated his assurance.

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Anti-meat advert 'was misleading'

A VEGETARIAN Society anti-meat advertisement showing a famished African child was criticised as misleading by an advertising watchdog yesterday.

The advert, which appeared in the national press, carried a caption saying: "Putting meat on your plate takes the food from here." It claimed that "gored for meat" meant Western nations had to import grain from third world countries to "feed the millions of animals in our factory farms".

The Committee of Advertising Practice said that the society had oversimplified the issues and behaved in an unacceptable way by using an image of famine.

The advertisement led to protests from the National Farmers' Union and the Meat and Livestock Industry, who said that famine was caused not by an overall shortage but because some countries did not have access to food.

The advertising watchdog said it had concluded that there appeared to be a surplus of grain and the advertisement was "capable of being misleading". The committee added: "The issue of famine should be addressed with great care so as not to use the emotion aroused by the subject inappropriately." It ruled that the advert should either be withdrawn or substantially changed. However, the society said that its run had ended.

President Bush is to star in a \$7.5 million advertising campaign planned for British television next spring. In the advert, made for the US Department of Commerce, the president looks to camera and asks viewers: "So what are you waiting for - an invitation from the president?" The campaign is designed to boost the country's struggling travel industry.

PC 'had an affair on force cash'

A Police Federation official, John Clews, aged 43, used a Visa card issued in connection with his duties to pay for hotel rooms in which he conducted an affair with a policewoman, Warwick Crown Court was told yesterday.

PC Clews, of Quinton, Birmingham, treasurer of the federation's West Midlands branch, ran up hotel bills on six occasions in Northamptonshire, totalling £350, said Simon Draycott, for the prosecution.

Clews denies charges of false accounting and evasion of a liability by deception. The case continues today.

Cookson home



The novelist Catherine Cookson, aged 85, (above) returned to her home in Newcastle upon Tyne yesterday afternoon after receiving hospital treatment for an irregular heartbeat.

Robin returns

Richard Todd, aged 71, star of Fifties films including *Robin Hood*, will appear in a production of *The Woman in Black*, opening on November 13 at Liverpool's Playhouse, in place of John Osborne's *Deja Vu*, the follow-up to his 1956 play *Look Back in Anger*, withdrawn after disagreement with Peter O'Toole.

Britain makes tiny inroad into Japan

From KEVIN EASON IN TOKYO

A TOKYO sushi bar owner today takes delivery of a Japanese car which carries the sticker "Made in Britain".

Hiroyuki Ueda's Nissan is the symbol of one of the most remarkable success stories in Japan's industry. The Primera model was built at Washington, Tyne and Wear, for sale in Japan and is one of the first batch of 1,500 being sold there this year.

Mr Ueda, aged 28, could have been forgiven for having misgivings when he was told that the car he had chosen from a showroom in Tokyo came from a factory in England. The British reputation was once for making cars which spent more time waiting for a breakdown lorry than showing their performance, helping to lead to the rise of Japanese cars, which account for more than 200,000 UK sales annually.

Mr Ueda was confident, however, that his dark grey hatchback would be as reliable as any made in Japan. "I am not worrying about the UK quality. This is a Nissan and it is a Japanese brand, so it is all right."

The model is so "all right" that Yutaka Kume, Nissan's president, has given the Washington plant the task of producing the only five-door

hatchback in the company's empire. Japan makes the Primera but only in saloon form, for the domestic and United States markets.

The British plant is sending 200 Primers a month to Japan as part of an export programme to 30 countries. More than 90 per cent of the output of 124,000 cars this year is going overseas, contributing £500 million to the balance of payments. Japanese buyers had their first real chance to see the Washington Primera this week at the Tokyo Motor Show, where the British car is the centrepiece of Nissan's exhibition stand.

At least one person is confident that the car will win over the Japanese. Margaret Thatcher, who as prime minister helped to persuade Nissan to build its £700 million plant at Washington in 1986, said in a letter to Mr Kume: "I have absolutely no doubt that with the combination of Japanese design and technology and British workmanship, the Primera will be an outstanding success."

Mr Ueda paid the equivalent of about £11,500 for his car, plus £1,500 in taxes. In Britain, the same model would cost about £16,000.

Motoring, page 32

Troop from by 61

A CHAIR majority of 61 votes in a referendum on the future of the island, according to Northern Ireland, would have been enough to support the continued presence of British troops and almost certainly to support a strategy of withdrawal with the consent of the British government. The referendum was held on October 18 and 19. The result was a narrow victory for the 'Yes' side, which argued that the British should remain in the island. The 'No' side, which argued for withdrawal, lost by 61 votes.

Labour told of Welsh backlash

LABOUR'S policy of granting Wales a "devolution" of powers has provoked a vote in the Welsh Assembly. The vote was 10-9 in favour of the Labour government's proposal. The Welsh Assembly is the first of its kind in the United Kingdom. It was created by the Wales Act 1990. The Labour government has promised to give the Assembly more powers over time. The vote was a significant test of the government's policy.

Mr. Wales, the party's leader, said that the vote was a "significant step" towards the creation of a Welsh state. He said that the Labour government was committed to the principle of devolution. The vote was a clear endorsement of the government's policy.

Capstick in the

The choice of a "M" to fight the Hen for Labour may prove in the area, Roman

The outbreak from a London local winner, the Hen, was held left. The Hen, a drawing of a hen, was the symbol of the Labour party in the area. The Hen was a popular figure in the area and was often seen in the streets. The Labour party has used the Hen as a symbol for many years.

Labour's head office, the Hen, was a popular figure in the area. The Hen was a popular figure in the area and was often seen in the streets. The Labour party has used the Hen as a symbol for many years.

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Troop withdrawals from Ulster 'backed by 61% of Britons'

By EDWARD GORMAN AND JOHN WINDER

A CLEAR majority of the British electorate favours the withdrawal of troops from Northern Ireland, according to an opinion poll. The majority does not support Britain's continued presence in the province, and almost as many do not support the government strategy of withdrawal only with the consent of the majority living there.

The survey, carried out by Mori for a Channel 4 documentary, found that 61 per cent of respondents favoured a withdrawal of troops. Of that total, 23 per cent said the troops should be withdrawn immediately and 38 per cent that they should withdraw over a pre-set period. Only 31 per cent said the soldiers should remain indefinitely. Of those who favoured

withdrawal over a pre-set period, 21 per cent said it should be within one year, 43 per cent said it should be within four years, and 30 per cent that it should be phased over more than four years.

Although Mori did not frame its questions about troop withdrawals in terms of sovereignty, the company said it would be fair to assume in almost every case that respondents equated "troops" with "sovereignty".

The publication of the findings, based on interviews with 1,923 adults aged over 18 in Great Britain in March, before the failure of the government's devolution initiative on Northern Ireland, came as the Troops Out Movement launched a new campaign in London yesterday.

Addressing a press conference at Westminster, Tony Benn, Labour MP for Chesterfield, called on the government to end its jurisdiction over Northern Ireland and to withdraw its military presence. He said he believed Britain would have withdrawn its troops and ended its sovereignty by the end of the century.

He suggested continued British presence only exacerbated the problems in Ulster. "Without British troops, the Protestant and Catholic communities [would] have to learn to live together. The presence of troops has been an excuse that both sides have been happy to have because, while they are there, [they] can always blame the British."

Mr Benn said that the failure of government initiatives demonstrated that there could be no "British solution" to the problem, a view held also by Sinn Féin, the IRA's political wing, but rejected by the government.

The Mori survey also found a marked preference among voters for Northern Ireland leaving the United Kingdom. Faced with three constitutional options, 25 per cent of respondents said Northern Ireland should be incorporated in a unitary Irish state, 25 per cent said it should become independent, and 33 per cent believed it should remain part of the UK.

Despite the dramatic differences in policy on Ireland between Conservative and Labour, 80 per cent of respondents said they either did not know if there were any differences or agreed that there was nothing to choose between the parties. Sixty four per cent said that whether or not a party supported and planned for a British withdrawal from Northern Ireland would make no difference to their voting intentions.

That helps to explain the general indifference in Britain to the troubles, and to Northern Ireland generally, which has made it easy for governments to continue to ignore the clear preference of the majority to withdraw.

During the past ten years, the majority in favour of a withdrawal of troops either immediately or over a pre-set period has not changed significantly. In 1981, the figure was 59 per cent. In 1984, it fell to 53 per cent, reaching the current 61 per cent in 1987.



Smoke screening: Edward Sahakian, of the cigar maker Davidoff, sampling a Cuban Cohiba robustos, one of several rare Havanas to be served at a series of cigar-tasting dinners launched at Mosmann's dining club in Belgravia, London. The dinners consist of three courses, with cigars served between each course. Diary, page 16

Gordons crusaders withdraw candidate

By KERRY GILL

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to save the Gordon Highlanders yesterday dropped their plan to field a candidate in the Kincardine and Deeside by-election, bringing relief to the other candidates, particularly Marcus Humphrey, the Conservative.

Although there were murmurs that the campaigners had been "got at" by senior Tories, Douglas Robson, campaign secretary, insisted that they had withdrawn after receiving an assurance that the future of the regiment, threatened by the government's defence review, will be reconsidered. "We have information from a number of authoritative sources that our cause has at last reached the right ears and an appropriate response will be made," said Mr Robson.

It had been feared by the other candidates that a Gordon candidate could have split the vote in what is expected to be a close by-election and might have subjugated some of the other issues within the constituency.

Labour told of Welsh backlash

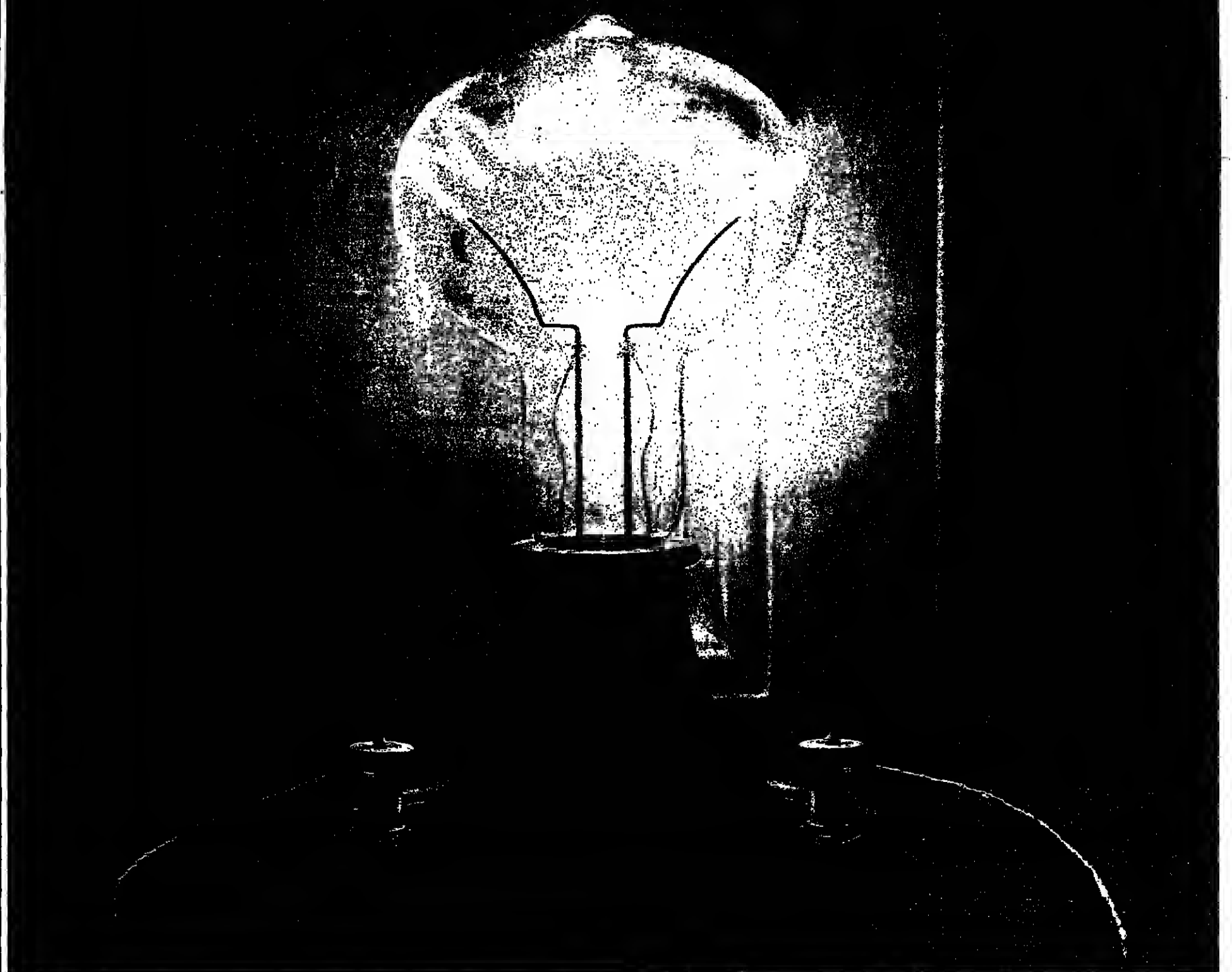
LABOUR'S policy of granting Wales "second division" devolution will prove a vote loser for Neil Kinnock at the general election, Welsh nationalists claimed yesterday. Plaid Cymru's new president, Dafydd Wigley, MP for Caernarfon, forecast that Labour's treatment of Wales as "just like another region of England" would provoke a backlash.

Labour is pledged to give Scotland a parliament with financial powers within its first year of office, but a Welsh assembly has been given a lower priority, alongside plans to devolve some central government functions to the English regions.

Mr Wigley told his party's annual conference at Porthmadog, Gwynedd, that there was growing public support for Welsh self-government after dissatisfaction with the government's performance on key issues such as health.

He was dismissive of a recent poll which gave Plaid Cymru only 5 per cent support, but he admitted it faced a big challenge to break out of its Welsh-speaking heartland.

ONE OF THE GREATEST DISCOVERIES EAST MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY HAS MADE SINCE THOMAS EDISON.



Capstick factor in the wings

The choice of a "moderate" ex-Euro MP to fight the Hemsworth by-election for Labour may prompt a protest vote in the area, Ronald Faux reports

The onslaught from a redundant coal miner in the Featherstone hotel left Derek Enright drawing thoughtfully on his cigarette. The collier had told him: "I'm militant and a Scargill fanatic. I think he's fantastic, even though he cost me my job and I'll be voting Conservative."

As Labour candidate in the by-election for the safe Labour seat of Hemsworth in West Yorkshire, Mr



Enright: man preferred by Labour head office

Enright was bound to wonder how many more dyed-in-the-wool socialists would put a cross next to the name of Garnet Harrison, banking and investment consultant.

The reason for the miner's disaffection was that party headquarters had ignored Ken Capstick, preferred candidate of the National Union of Mineworkers, vice-chairman of the Yorkshire NUM and close associate of Arthur Scargill. Mr Capstick was not even shortlisted from the names submitted to head office.

Mr Enright, a former Euro MP, will be defending the 20,700 majority left by the late George Buckley, Hemsworth's NUM sponsored MP.

An enthusiast for the classics and a Kinnock supporter, Mr Enright taught at

St Wilfred's high school in Featherstone.

Until lunchtime yesterday Mr Enright had found little evidence on the doorsteps of the former pit villages of the Capstick factor. There are, though, rumours that independent Labour candidates may stand and that the NUM will refuse to back the party's campaign. However, Mr Enright said: "It is quite wrong to say I have been imposed on the constituency. Everything was done democratically and by the book."

The Conservative and Liberal Democrat candidates plan to make expected splits in Labour support a central issue. A Tory official said: "It perfectly demonstrates the undemocratic nature of the Labour party. They don't want Ken Capstick because they don't want the views of the Labour party exposed to public scrutiny. They want a nice safe candidate."

The Conservatives also see hope in the changed nature of Hemsworth, once a group of seven colliery villages. Only Frickley pit remains and the miners have declined as a political force. Houses are being improved as the villages become centres for commuting to nearby towns or the Selby coalfield. The black dunes of pit waste are the biggest reminders of what was the area's bedrock industry.

The Liberal Democrats' candidate is Val Mepson, a miner's daughter and local councillor who runs a food takeaway in South Elmsall. She too sees a split Labour vote as her best hope.

General election 1987: George Buckley (Lab) 27,859, Edward Garnier (Con) 7,159, John Woolfindin (Lib/All) 6,568.

When it came to finding possible new ways to lower their mailing costs, the East Midlands Electricity company were left a bit in the dark.

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Surgeon quits kidney donor scheme over 'imbalance'

A LEADING kidney transplant surgeon has withdrawn from the national donor exchange scheme, raising concern that it may collapse.

Ross Taylor, of the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle upon Tyne, who helped to set up the scheme, said he was quitting for the time being because his area was "getting a raw deal". The British Kidney Patient Association said that the collapse of the scheme would mean that patients in areas that are already poorly served would have to wait even longer for transplants.

The scheme, co-ordinated in Bristol, is intended to ensure that donated kidneys go to the most needy patients whose bodies are most likely to accept them, wherever they live. When an organ donor dies, one kidney is kept for local use and the other is

offered to the national exchange scheme.

Mr Taylor, past president of the British Association of Transplant Surgeons, said: "In the last nine months, we have put 25 more kidneys into the system than we've got out of it. For me that is not acceptable. So what I have done is said, 'I'm sorry, I'm not in this club any more until I see that this imbalance is being addressed'."

Mr Taylor told BBC-TV's *Close Up North*: "I want everyone in the UK to get a transplant; that's the ideal. But we don't live in an ideal world. My prime responsibility is to the patients in the North who are on our waiting list for a transplant. We can't afford to disadvantage our own folk." He stressed that he would re-enter the scheme as soon as it improved, but admitted there was a risk other transplant surgeons could follow his lead.

Elizabeth Ward, president of the British Kidney Patient Association, said: "I am all sympathy for Ross Taylor. The scheme depends on the good faith of the doctors referring the kidneys through to UK Transplant in Bristol."

Mrs Ward said that if the scheme collapsed patients in areas such as Plymouth, Exeter, Portsmouth and Dundee would be adversely affected. The health department said that a special health authority, the Transplant Support Services Authority, had been formed to administer kidney transplants and would be meeting in the next few weeks. A spokesman said: "I'm sure that if Mr Taylor wishes to make his views known the authority would be interested to hear them." It was important that the scheme operated efficiently.

Stephen Dorrell, junior health minister, said he was concerned if a surgeon of Mr Taylor's standing no longer believed the scheme had a role to play.

Paper to pay for drug libel

A MAN hounded by vandals after a newspaper falsely alleged that he duped two British girls into smuggling large quantities of heroin through Bangkok accepted undisclosed libel damages at the High Court yesterday.

Bernard Thomas, aged 27, of Birmingham, had been accused in the *Daily Mirror* of supplying two teenagers, Karen Smith and Patricia Cahill, with air tickets to Bangkok, where they were later found guilty of possessing heroin and sentenced to long jail terms in Thailand.

Mr Thomas had become so upset about the articles that he had to seek medical treatment for depression, his solicitor, Sarah Webb, told Mr Justice Otton. His distinctive pink Porsche had been vandalised and he had received abusive and threatening telephone calls, she said.

Mr Thomas, a shift supervisor at the Small Heath Leisure Centre in Birmingham, had never had any involvement in drug taking, trafficking, or any criminal activity, Mrs Webb said.

Philip Conway, solicitor for Mirror Group Newspapers, said the paper accepted that the articles should never have been published and that the "grave charges they make are entirely without foundation". As well as paying damages, the paper agreed to pay Mr Thomas's legal costs.



Dorrell: concerned by Mr Taylor's decision



Good company: members of Hitchen's Bancroft Players in rehearsal; from the left, Keith Crook, Edith Pratt, Keith Peadar, Maureen Nobes

More funds sought for booming amateur arts

THE amateur arts, nourished by most Victorian families as their principal social activity but thought to have gone into terminal decline in competition with the cinema and television, are alive in Britain and thriving, according to a Policy Studies Institute report published yesterday.

Amateur Arts in the United Kingdom is claimed as the first comprehensive study of the subject and shows that at least seven million people regularly practise one or more of the arts. It also shows that youth is taking to the arts in its spare time: 7 per cent of those aged 16 to 19 participate.

About 1.8 million people regularly perform amateur music and drama, another 1.8 million draw and paint and 3 million practice textile crafts. Photography is by far the most popular pursuit, attracting 19 per cent of the population, with disco dancing and textile crafts oddly together with it per cent each. Drama, writing poetry,

Simon Tait lifts the curtain on a report showing that the amateur arts are thriving but calling for more support

choral singing and performing pop music each involve 2 per cent of Britons.

The report was commissioned by the steering group of the Voluntary Arts Network (VAN), which was formally set up by the Carnegie Trust yesterday with the announcement that Sir Richard Luce, the former arts minister, is to be its chairman. "Millions of people are turning to the arts and crafts as a source of enjoyment and fulfilment in their private lives," he said. "We need to strengthen and promote the development of amateur arts and crafts in this country and VAN will do everything possible to secure this by promoting the interests of amateur arts at every level through research, information and practical proposals."

However, the report, VAN's first contribution,

do more and that there should be independent studies of the arts in education.

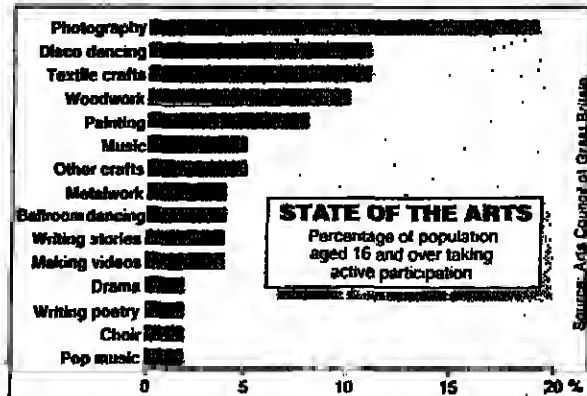
Amateur arts groups, supported by membership subscriptions, box office income, donations and fund-raising, have next to no public funding. Throughout England and Wales, local authority grants to amateur groups amounted to no more than £3.5 million in 1990-91.

National umbrella organisations play an important part in the amateur arts

scene. There are 28 covering the performing arts, crafts and photography, with a combined membership of 448,000. Use of professional help by amateurs is a modern feature. In 1989-90 the National Federation of Music Societies, which has 990 amateur groups affiliated, spent £5.7 million on hiring professionals to join them.

In England, however, only 19 per cent of drama societies are affiliated to national umbrella organisations, more than 2,000 being unaffiliated. In all there are about 3,575 societies in the UK, excluding youth theatres and drama organised by women's institutes, townswomen's guilds and young farmers' clubs.

Drama is singled out for special treatment in the report. It recommends that the Arts Council should support financially the establishment of a Drama Association of England, to match the Drama Association of Wales, and provide a framework for English amateur theatre.



Twin-engined flights over sea queried

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR British Airways pilot has claimed that long range twin-engined flights over water are potentially dangerous days before his airline begins such services across the Atlantic.

British Airways studied years of data from dozens of other airlines which regularly use twin-engined aircraft on such services - known as extended range twin-engined

operations, or Etops - and is convinced that the flights are safe. Civil Aviation Authority safety officials have given their approval and BA will begin flying Boeing 767s to the United States on Sunday.

Captain Roger Hoyle, a leading member of the British Air Line Pilots Association, says in the association's magazine, *The Log*: "Sooner or later an Etops aircraft could

well go down in circumstances where a three or four-engined aircraft would have been able to continue to a safe landing. Whilst one naturally hopes there will never be cause to say 'I told you so', nagging doubts remain."

He says that all six airfields to which an aircraft with one engine shut down would have to divert have problems with visibility, lighting, fog or surrounding high terrain. Some would have difficulty housing stranded passengers, and maintenance would be difficult at others.

Four British airlines have been flying Etops routes for up to three years, during which time they have completed 8,500 flights without a single diversion caused by engine failure during the over-water sectors.

Seeking a path to prosperity

As a group of Orcadians looks enviously at the economic boom enjoyed by an island neighbour Kerry Gill examines the benefits that a causeway would bring

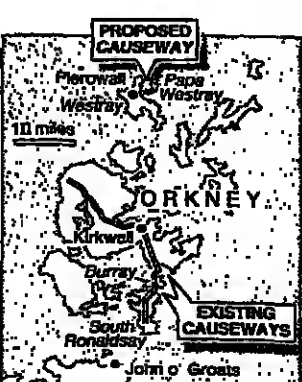
TWENTY-FOUR hours a day, 365 days a year, a boat lies at readiness to whisk the local GP from the Orkney island of Westray to its tiny neighbour, Papa Westray, in case of emergency. For more everyday needs, the 80 or so residents on "Papa", its ancient name, can jump on board the world's shortest scheduled air service, only two minutes, to Westray.

Now many of the inhabitants of Papa Westray, famous for its birdlife and archaeological remains, are calling for a causeway to link them with the bigger island, which is enjoying a boom rare among Scottish islands due to fishing, agriculture and tourism.

If causeways could be built 50 years ago to protect the Scaja Flow naval base from German submarines, they argue, the government and the European Community should stump up the estimated £18 million for a causeway that would help their economy rival that on Westray. While some Orkney councillors say the cost cannot be justified, others say they are short-sighted and that the causeway could be adapted for tidal power in the next century.

At a recent public meeting on Papa Westray everyone was in favour of a causeway that could help the island's growing tourist industry. They pointed to the hundreds of thousands of pounds that would be saved each year. The problem is that the government insists that, based on the probable cost, annual savings from the causeway would have to be at least £1.2 million.

Howie Firth, an Orkney councillor who favours the scheme, said yesterday: "We have estimated that there could be a number of savings in schooling, transport and health costs. If a causeway was built between the islands we could close Papa's primary school, which has only six pupils, we would not have to have the doctor's boat and crew waiting all the time and the health board would not necessarily have to have a



resident nurse on the island."

Other savings would preclude the need to run the air service and have cargo vessels regularly plying the short distance from Westray to Papa Westray. Farmers and fishermen, who now have to move produce by sea, would also save cash. Mr Firth said that as technology developed a causeway could be used to harness tidal power between the islands.

The causeway would be about 1.5 kilometres long and could be built comparatively easily as the sea is only about four metres deep at low tide. Mr Firth said that the wartime barriers, recently improved with EC money, proved that the idea was feasible. "They were built for short-term reasons but have had great long-term benefits for the islands they connected," he said.

In 1940 the Churchill barriers were completed, linking the islands of Lamb Holm, Glims Holm, Burray and South Ronaldsay with mainland Orkney. They protected the Scaja Flow naval base into which a German submarine had penetrated the previous year to sink HMS Royal Oak with the loss of 833 lives.

Between 1942 and 1944 more work was carried out on the barriers, covered by roadways, with the help of Italian prisoners of war. Mr Firth said: "It is a pity we don't have those Italians here now to help us, but maybe if the government saved the threatened Scottish regiments the soldiers could help us build the causeway."

Today we reach a milestone in the history of flying

The Rt Hon. Christopher Chataway, Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, today lays the foundation stone of Britain's new air traffic control centre now being built near Fareham in Hampshire.

The ceremony marks another milestone in this £200m-plus project and in the development of the nation's air traffic system.

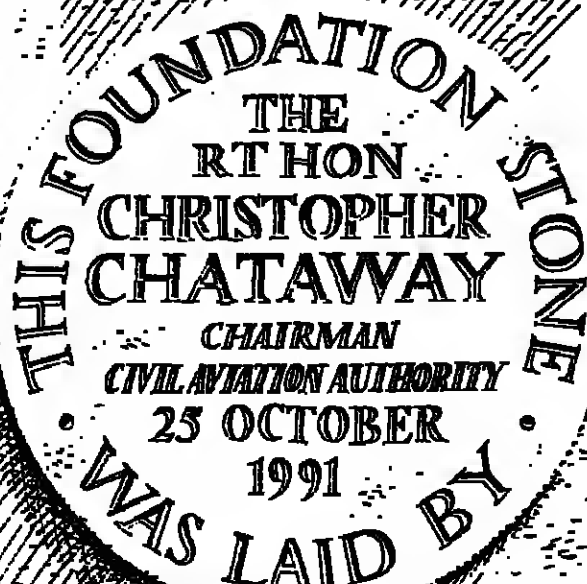
The Authority is investing £750m in new equipment, facilities and procedures to meet the growing demand for air travel. So far we've modernised airport air traffic services, provided more and better navigation aids and completed one of the world's most advanced radar chains. We've also successfully installed a new computer system at the London Air Traffic Control Centre.

By 1995 we'll have introduced a radical re-organisation of air traffic management over South East England to provide 30 per cent more capacity. In 1996 airspace capacity over England and Wales will be increased by 40 per cent when the new centre at Fareham is operational. And we're working with our European colleagues to harmonise and integrate systems across the whole of the continent.

Our aim is to provide a better service than ever before to the air traveller.



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Shamir presence at peace talks seen as a signal of no-compromise stance

Arabs agree united front against Israel

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

WITH postures hardening on both sides of the Middle East divide, the Arab states agreed yesterday to maintain a common stand at all stages of next week's landmark talks with Israel in Madrid and called for an immediate end to the settlement of Jews on land occupied by Israel after the 1967 six-day war.

The agreement, after two days of discussions in Damascus, was reached as Arab leaders, including President Mubarak of Egypt and King Hussein of Jordan, came under increasing Western pressure to go to Madrid now that Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's hard-line prime minister, has announced that he will be there.

Arab governments and Palestinians were unanimous in interpreting Mr Shamir's decision as a signal that Israel intends to offer no compromises. "If Shamir is the negotiator, Israel's position will be more extreme, I am convinced of this," Haidar Abdul-Shafi, the chief Palestinian negotiator for the talks, said.

In a statement made on behalf of the 15 Arab states and the Palestine Liberation Organisation in Damascus, the Arabs undertook to hold further meetings to review talks held by any of the Arab delegations with their Israeli counterparts. "The aim is to ensure that nobody again makes a unilateral deal as Egypt did in 1979," a senior Arab diplomat said.

The statement continued:

"The main aims are to ensure Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory, including Jerusalem, to halt Israeli settlement immediately and to ensure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people." Although the meeting of Arab states fell short of PLO attempts to organise a summit of all leaders of Arab countries participating at Madrid, the adoption of a joint stand was seen as a boost for the organisation's efforts to preclude any deal not embracing the Palestinian issue.

Diplomats said that Saudi Arabia and Morocco were exerting influence behind the scenes to prevent an early breakdown of the Madrid talks. This could happen if any members of the Palestinian delegation openly declared allegiance to the PLO.

The Damascus statement did not say if the other Arab participants had agreed to accede to Syria's wish to delay the proposed third stage of the conference — multilateral talks on regional issues such as water — until Israel yields on the key point of returning land for peace. No decision has been made on where future stages of the peace conference will be held. Israel wants stage two in the Middle East, while Syria wants it in Europe. The Americans have offered Washington as a possible compromise.

Western officials said yesterday that the American government hoped to persuade President Mubarak to fly to



We shall not be moved: Yitzhak Shamir, the hardline Israeli prime minister, talking to the media in his Jerusalem office this week. He intends to keep David Levy, his foreign secretary, out of key posts at the Madrid talks

Madrid as a useful middleman and potential deal-maker. Egypt, still the only Arab state officially at peace with Israel, is attending as an observer.

Officials in Amman, the Jordanian capital, said it was unlikely that King Hussein would attend, but they did not rule out a change of heart. Arab sources predicted that it was also unlikely that Syria's President Assad would reverse his previous refusal to travel to Madrid to meet the Israelis in person.

While Mr Shamir's decision to lead his country's delegation deepened the gloom about the conference's prospects in the Arab world,

Western diplomats were attempting to put it in a different light.

Some argued that it would raise the profile of the conference and increase the chances of a proper dialogue which could have lasting effects. "Levy could not in any case have struck any deals that Shamir did not approve of, even if his manner had been more accommodating," an European envoy said.

The PLO has urged Palestinians in the occupied territories to step up the intifada in protest against Israeli military rule in an attempt to strengthen the hand of Arab negotiators at the talks. Nabil

Shatha, political adviser to Mr Arafat, gave a warning in Jordan that the start of the talks should not signal an end to the intifada, now nearly four years old. Since it began, more than 830 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis, the Palestinians have killed some 70 Israelis, and uprisings have killed 409 Arabs, most of them suspected collaborators.

"We have to struggle through diplomacy inside the peace conference," Mr Shatha said. "But we have to intensify the intifada and escalate the military struggle against Israeli military targets. Nobody has the right to stop the

intifada. Using diplomatic struggle alone, one cannot realise anything. We have to keep proving to the Americans that there will never be peace, security and stability for anyone if justice to the Palestinian people is not achieved."

Amman: Abdul-Salam al-Majali, a former minister of health and education and political adviser to King Hussein, will lead Jordan's team in bilateral peace talks with Israel, an official source said yesterday. The announcement of his appointment is expected after the start of the talks.

Mr al-Majali served as an adviser to the king two years ago after leaving his cabinet post. He is also a former president of the University of Jordan. A medical doctor who comes from a prominent Muslim tribe in south Jordan, he declined to comment yesterday until his appointment is officially announced.

Kamel Abu Jaber, the Jordanian foreign minister who is a US-educated Christian, will lead the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the opening session in Madrid. The Palestinians are expected in Amman today. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 17

US takes care with Madrid appellation

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

MARLIN Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, threw up his arms in mock horror. He had been asked to respond to the declaration by Yasser Arafat that he, as chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, would control the Palestinian delegation at next week's Middle East peace conference.

"I am not going to take the chance of saying the wrong thing," Mr Fitzwater said. The situation was just "too delicate, too sensitive".

A similar official American silence greeted news on Wednesday that Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, and not David Levy, the moderate foreign minister, would lead his country's delegation in Madrid. James Baker, the American Secretary of State, had apparently tried to deflect Mr Shamir from this course during a telephone call on Tuesday. Mr Shamir's decision was seen here as a clear warning of Israeli intransigence during the forthcoming talks, but no official would express his alarm publicly.

After eight months of prodigious effort, Mr Baker is within an ace of bringing four Arab nations, the Palestinians and the Israelis to the negotiating table for the first time in Israel's 43-year history. He has done so by relentless arm-twisting and by finessing issues until the talks get under way. He is determined that the appellation should not be upset at the 11th hour. The problem is that he and his small circle of close aides have spent so much time on convening the talks that, critics say, too little time has gone into plotting what happens when they start.

Officials hope that simply bringing the opposing factions face to face, with Presidents Bush and Gorbachev present, will produce some kind of "chemical reaction" strong enough to surmount the ancient barriers. But they are not over-optimistic. "People ought not to get expectations too high," Mr Bush said this week. Washington realises that most participants will be present only because they had little other choice.

Kurdish rebels step up attacks

Istanbul — Kurdish separatists attacked a train outside Mus, a town in southeast Turkey, on Wednesday, beginning an upsurge of violence in the area (Andrew Finkel writes).

A group of 20 men, believed to belong to the Kurdish Workers' party gave the passengers a political lecture, and later, according to the Anatolian News Agency, sprayed the departing train with automatic weapons fire, killing a man and wounding three others. Separatists yesterday ambushed a patrol near Silopi, on the border with Iraq; five soldiers were reportedly killed. The incidents coincide with a visit to the southeast by General Dogan Gures, the Turkish chief of staff, and also by the heads of the army, air force and gendarmerie.

General Gures has said that the armed forces could end the insurgency in six months but that this would mean damaging the democratic process. In last Sunday's election, 22 candidates with radical views on the Kurdish issue were elected for the Social Democratic Populist party, a likely coalition partner for the True Path party.

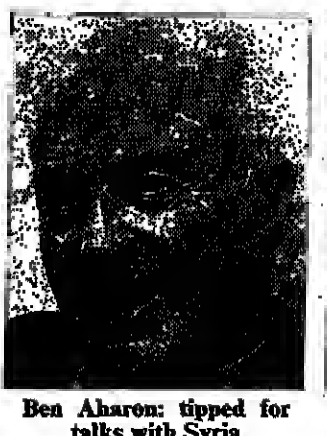
It was also reported yesterday that three separatists had blown themselves up while laying landmines in the province of Mardin and that police had recovered two arms caches, arresting 11 people.

Iraq must pay

Geneva — Iraq will have to recompense victims for mental pain and anguish caused by its invasion of Kuwait, the UN has decided. They include hostages held as human shields against allied bombing raids, people raped or tortured and those forced into hiding. The governing council of the UN compensation fund, to be funded from Iraqi oil revenues, has yet to decide the level of payments. (Reuters)

Sect leader dies

Beirut — Sheikh Muhammad Abu Shakra, the spiritual leader of Lebanon's Druze community since 1949, has died, aged 81. Before his death, the leader delegated his duties to Sheikh Bahjat Gailh, aged 50. The Druze, who are a secret sect, believe in reincarnation. (Reuters)



Ben Aharon: tipped for talks with Syria



Netanyahu: a key role as media spokesman



Lubrani: likely to head Lebanon talks

Elite White House guards dismissed for drug abuse

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

THEY were the elite 180-strong Ceremonial Guard, the shaven-headed, immaculately-groomed, expressionless soldiers who performed with robotic precision at formal White House welcoming ceremonies just yards from President Bush and visiting heads of state. Unfortunately, many of them were also junkies.

The US Navy confirmed yesterday that 14 members of the guard had been dismissed after being found to have used LSD or marijuana. Their misconduct had been exposed by random urine tests and a seven-month investigation that included undercover "sting" operations in popular Washington nightclubs.

That was not all. Also incriminated were medical trainees at the Bethesda Naval Medical Centre in northern Washington. This is the institution that treats American presidents and where President Bush himself spent three days earlier this year after developing heart palpitations.

Fourteen of the trainees have been court-martialled.

Nearly 40 enlisted naval personnel were caught in all. Their punishments have ranged from demotion to dishonourable discharge and up to 25 years in a military prison.

The navy did its best to minimise the implications of disclosures that became public only after lawyers for one of the last defendants claimed entrapment, arguing that his client was placed in barracks where the navy knew there were active LSD dealers. "None of these individuals were in a position that involved national security or direct access to the president," a Pentagon spokesman said.

"The navy has a long-standing zero-tolerance policy on drug abuse. We started random drug testing in 1980 and we have got down to 1.1 per cent use in 1990 from 33 per cent in 1980, so we think we've been pretty successful," he added.

Lieutenant-Commander William Clyde, a spokesman for the medical centre, insisted that "the quality of medical care here has not been compromised". But, for Mr Bush, who declared war on drugs soon after taking office, the revelations are distinctly embarrassing, a reminder that, despite all the early rhetoric, Mr Bush's war on drugs has had little effect, although public attention has long since moved on to other issues.

Coinciding with the news of drug abuse in the presidential guard were separate State Department and congressional reports saying that the administration's policy of pumping tens of millions of dollars into Andean nations to curb coca production had had little impact.

The administration's claims of success against drug trafficking were "only so much bravado", John Conyers, Democratic chairman of the House Government Operations committee, said.

Cuba 'will defend ideology'

Cozumel, Mexico — Cubans will defend their communist ideology "like Christians in the catacombs of Rome", says President Castro.

Dr Castro, who earlier met the leaders of Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela, urged the United States to end a 30-year-old trade blockade of his country. He said Washington was intent on "sinking" Cuba with its trade embargo, and chances of improving relations between the two hostile neighbours were minimal. "There are very few possibilities of improving relations, because the US government considers itself at this moment ruler of the world," the Cuban leader, clad in his familiar olive-green military fatigues, told a news conference.

President Carlos Salinas of Mexico, Carlos Andrés Pérez of Venezuela and Cesar Gaviria of Colombia agreed at a summit in the coastal resort of Cozumel to work on Cuba's behalf to help settle its international difficulties. (Reuters)

Doctor questioned after new suicides

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

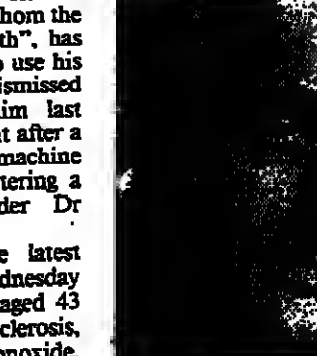
PROSECUTORS in Michigan yesterday scoured their law books for grounds to bring charges against Dr Jack Kevorkian, the inventor of a "suicide machine", after two women killed themselves.

Dr Kevorkian, a pathologist whom the press has nicknamed "Dr Death", has been under a court order not to use his contraption since a judge dismissed charges of murder against him last February. That case was brought after a terminally ill woman used the machine to commit suicide by administering a lethal intravenous dose under Dr Kevorkian's supervision.

Dr Kevorkian reported the latest suicides to the police on Wednesday night. Sherry Miller, who was aged 43 and suffered from multiple sclerosis, used a mask to inhale carbon monoxide, and Marjorie Wentz, aged 58, who had a pelvic disease, used the machine which lets the patient pull a lever to administer the drugs, police said.

Richard Thompson, the prosecutor who brought the earlier charges, said that he would try to bring a new case against Dr Kevorkian. The doctor's lawyer said that he had done nothing illegal. "It's a humane, ethical, medical act," he said. The Michigan police were considering

murder charges against Dr Kevorkian, said Sergeant Dale Romeo, of the sheriff's office. "The people were still hooked up to the machines when the



Humphry: suicide manual was top of the American bestseller lists

sheriff got there," he said. Dr Kevorkian would face contempt of court charges at least, prosecutors said. Dr Kevorkian, aged 63, was questioned and released yesterday.

Mrs Miller, a divorced mother of two, had testified for Dr Kevorkian at a court hearing last January. "I'm the one

making the decision to end my life, nobody else, and I want that right," she said then. "I've given it long consideration. My life is no longer a quality life, otherwise I wouldn't be here."

Last summer Mrs Wentz said that she tried to follow the directions in *Final Exit*, a suicide manual which topped the American bestseller lists for months earlier this year. When she failed, she turned to Dr Kevorkian.

Like half the American states, Michigan has no law specifically prohibiting assistance to a suicide. Though Dr Kevorkian portrays himself as a campaigner for euthanasia, his methods have embarrassed other doctors who support the right of terminally ill people to end their lives. "Kevorkian continues to show the dark side of the active euthanasia movement," said Arthur Caplan, a bioethics specialist at the University of Minnesota.

The movement fell into some disrepute after the suicide earlier this month of the former wife of Derek Humphry, the British-born director of the Hemlock Society and author of *Final Exit*. Ann Humphry, who was aged 49, left letters accusing Mr Humphry of precipitating her death.

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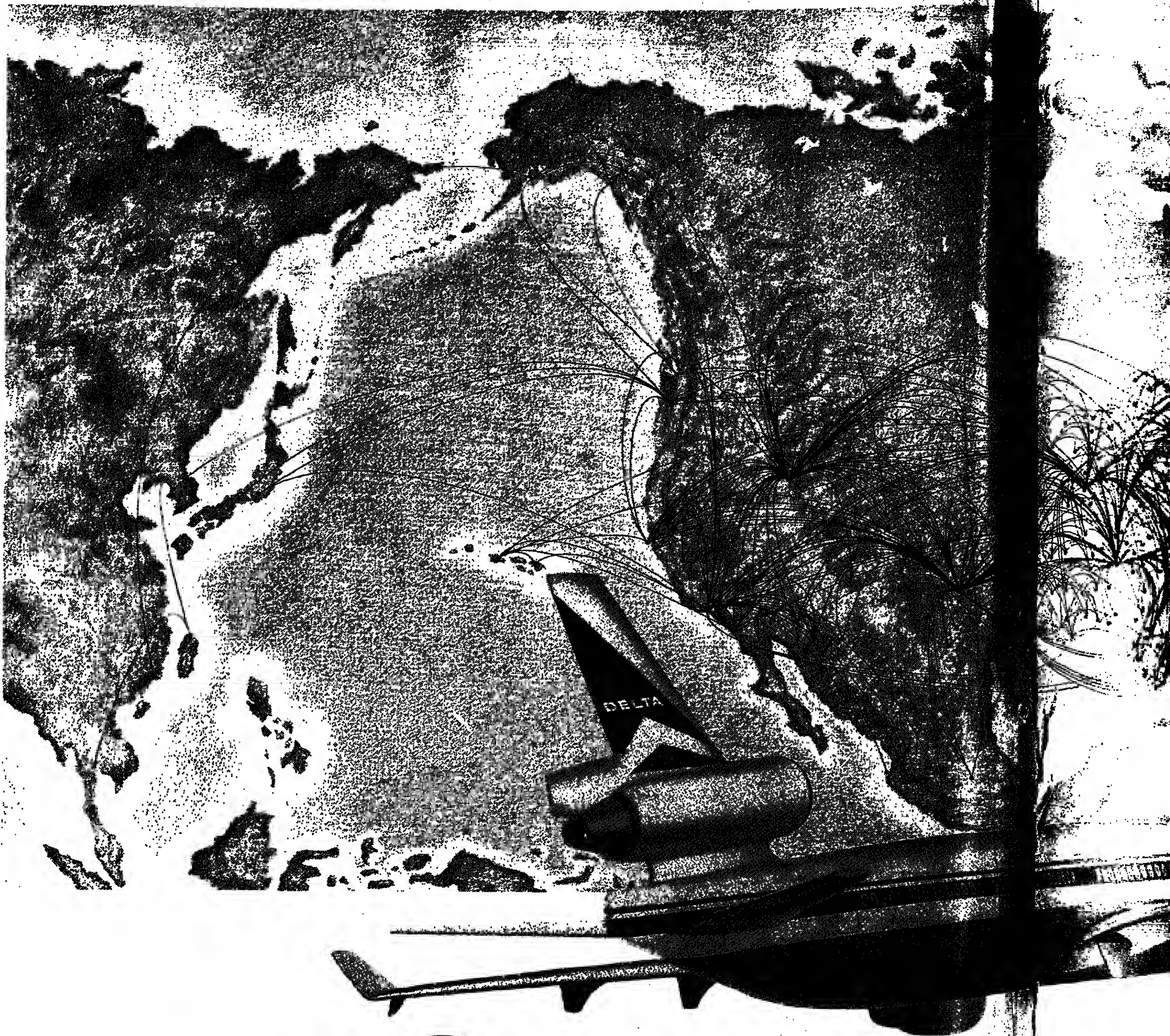
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S251

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From left, Delta Flight Attendant Bonita Caringola, First Officer Timothy Therrell, Captain Larry Bacon and Flight Attendant Stephanie Allen.

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Attacks on medieval heart of Dubrovnik signify battle between Croatian and Serbian cultures

Art falls prey to change in federal army tactics

BY BOMBING Dubrovnik's medieval heart, Yugoslavia's federal generals have made plain that they are no longer waging war to protect Serbian minorities or to capture strategic positions, but to assert a victory of Serbian culture over Croatia.

In a war designed to rewrite history, churches, palaces and museums are "legitimate" targets, not accidental casualties. The Zagreb national museum believes that 214 out of 224 registered Croatian monuments have come under fire. Half of these have been either badly damaged or destroyed. Croat officials may be exaggerating the scale of destruction, but other sources, such as the Catholic episcopate, which says 120 churches have suffered war damage, confirm that Yugoslav artillery and mortar fire is doing irreparable harm.

When the war began three months ago, Yugoslav army commanders claimed that they were targeting churches

The 'Pearl of the Adriatic' is one of several ancient cities whose historic riches are threatened, Roger Boyes, East Europe correspondent, writes

because Croat snipers were shooting from steeples. Now no explanations are given. The co-ordinated attack on Dubrovnik's centre, where the treasures include the baroque cathedral housing Titian's *Assumption*, the 14th-century rector's palace and the Sponza palace and clocktower, indicates that the target is now Croatia's cultural heritage.

The Serbs say Dubrovnik, "pearl of the Adriatic", was never Croatian and does not belong in an independent Croatia. Montenegro, Serbia's ally on most issues, agrees and sees no reason why it should not extend its coastline northwards to include it. There is talk in Belgrade of making Dubrovnik a free-trade zone. But none of this really matters

to the Yugoslav generals, or the "Greater Serbia" ideologues: the main point is simply to take Dubrovnik away from the Croats.

Dubrovnik was indeed a free city until Napoleon subjugated it in 1808. It was assigned to Austria by the Congress of Vienna in 1815 and, after the collapse of the Habsburg empire, was incorporated into Yugoslavia in 1918. The inhabitants of Ragusa, as ancient Dubrovnik was known, did not identify with the Croats or with any nation. Ivan Gundulić, the great Ragusan poet of the baroque era, wrote in the language known as "Slavic". Nevertheless, if anybody has a claim on Dubrovnik, Croatia does.

Ancient Ragusa was Catholic, like the Croats, and the influx of inhabitants after 1808 was almost exclusively from Croatia. In the 1920s and 1930s, Dubrovnik was aligned with Croat politics. Today, those who do not declare themselves Ragusian say they feel Croatian.

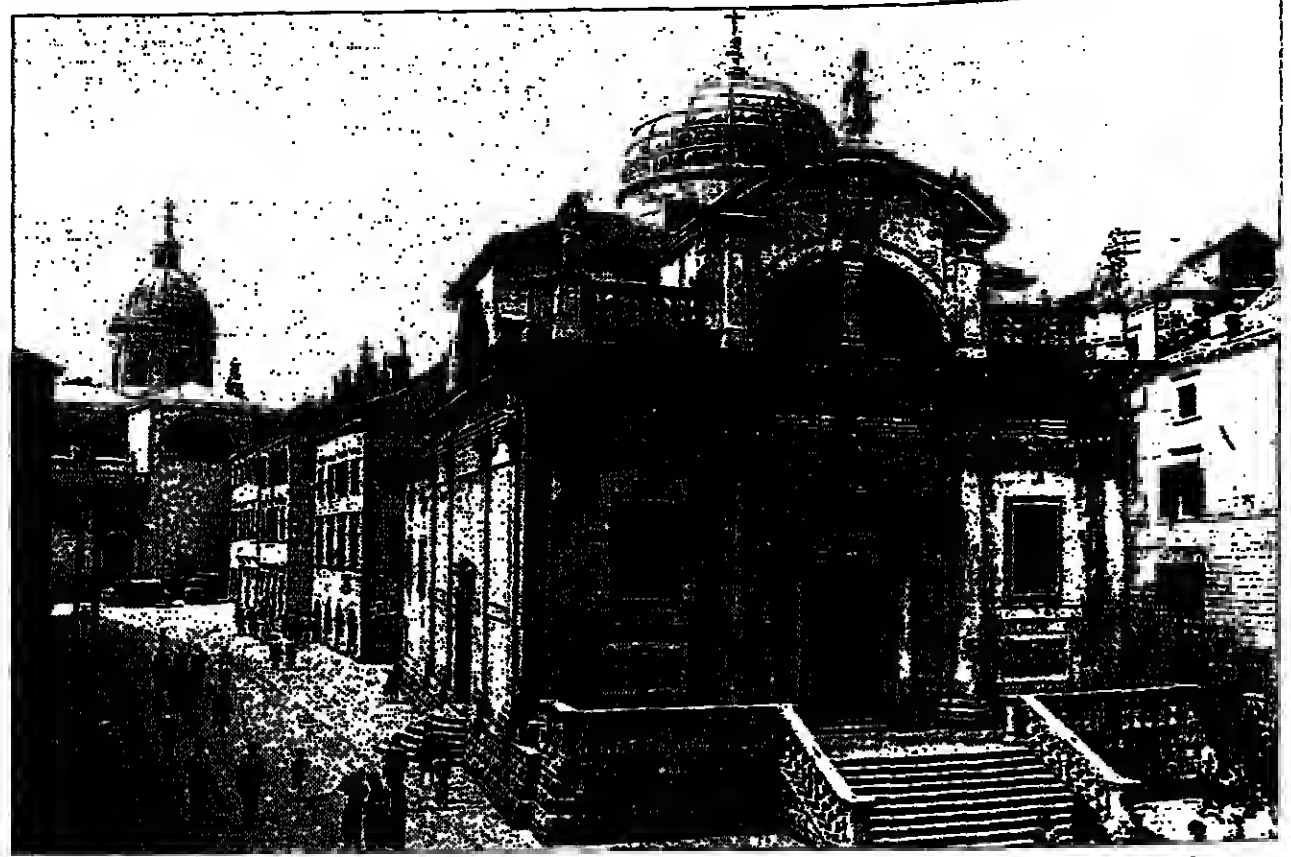
Dubrovnik is not the only pearl along the Dalmatian coast under threat. Dalmatia is one of those rare stretches of Europe which can display an uninterrupted historical line from Roman times. Split, like Dubrovnik, was established under fire. When the Croats moved in on the late Roman

city of Salona in AD610, the locals fled behind the walls of the Diocletian palace and eventually set up the community that became Split. The result is an extravagant jumble of relics. The cathedral is built over the former Roman imperial mausoleum.

The fighting around Split is in temporary abeyance, but few of the locals believe their city is safe. Pre-Roman work around Saint Donat church has been damaged by shrapnel in the port of Zadar. The roof of the 16th-century cathedral of Saint Jakob in the port of Šibenik has collapsed after a bomb attack and the dome is cracked.

In Trogir, the cathedral with Venetian lines at the portal has also been damaged. In eastern Croatia, in the battlefields of Slavonia, well-preserved Roman ruins have become modern Yugoslav ruins. Perhaps the most symbolic casualty is the 19th-century cathedral of Djakovina. This was the seat of Bishop Josip Strossmeyer, whose large diocese in Slavonia included both Catholic and Orthodox believers — Croats and Serbs.

He believed that Serbs and Croats should transcend their ethnic loyalties and live together in a modern Yugoslavia. Now machinegun bullets have left scars on the walls of the cathedral and ripped holes in the roof. The destruction is the end not only of Bishop Strossmeyer's intricately built church, deliberately combining Western Catholic and Eastern Orthodox architectural features, but also of his ideals.



Treasure house: one of Dubrovnik's main tourist attractions, the baroque cathedral which holds Titian's *Assumption*

Croats retreat from Dubrovnik

From TIM JUDAH IN ZAGREB

CROAT troops were in retreat yesterday as the Yugoslav military stepped up its assault on the ancient Adriatic city of Dubrovnik. Moving under cover of army and navy artillery barrages, Yugoslav troops were reported to be closing in on the port which they have laid siege to since October 1. "The city is moving towards its most dramatic hours," Croatian radio said.

In a setback to Croatia's war effort, the navy landed on the

beaches of Kupari, four miles southeast of the city, and forced Croat fighters to retreat under a barrage of shells, the radio said. It said that Croat soldiers were withdrawing and that Yugoslav troops were advancing from the direction of the Serbian stronghold of Trebinje in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

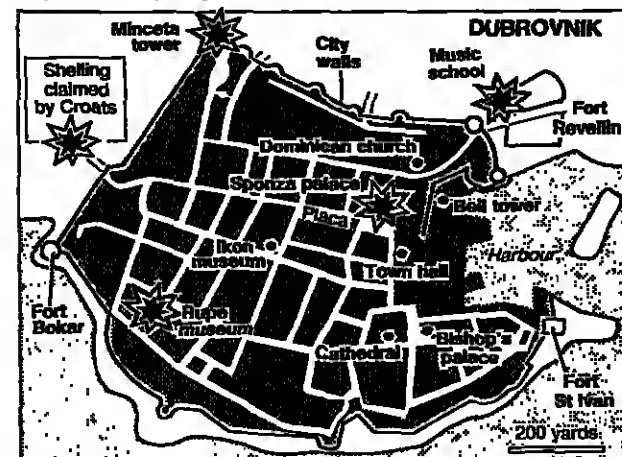
As the army tightened its grip around Dubrovnik, there were reports that Vukovar had been shelled and that

Vinkovci had been strafed. Fighting was also reported from Sisak, southeast of the Croatian capital, Zagreb, and Karlovac to the southwest.

General Andrija Raseta, the senior Yugoslav military official in Zagreb, refused to comment as he left a meeting with European Community ceasefire monitors yesterday, but Simon Smits, the spokesman, said he had agreed to a ceasefire but this would have to be cleared with superiors.



The Sponza clocktower Dubrovnik's old town



Kiev and Moscow seek to allay weapons fear

By MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Ukrainian parliament yesterday accepted Soviet control over nuclear arms in the republic but demanded a veto over their use.

The legislature declared that the republic aimed to become a nuclear-free zone. A statement said: "Nuclear arms on Ukrainian territory are under the control of what was the Soviet Union. The Ukraine insists on its right to [joint] control over their use."

It pledged observance of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, and said: "The Ukraine is ready to start talks with all sides concerned on liquidation of the rest of the

nuclear arms on its territory." In Moscow, the Soviet defence ministry responded cautiously yesterday to moves by the Ukraine to form its own army, but emphasised that nuclear weapons would remain under central command. Referring to Tuesday's vote by the Ukrainian parliament, Lieutenant-General Valeri Manilov, the ministry spokesman, said: "The Ukraine has the right to announce the formation of its own armed forces... But this is a serious question that is currently under discussion in the Ukrainian parliament, and we are analysing it. I am sure we will

find a sensible and mutually acceptable solution based on the law." Nuclear weapons, he said, "should stay under single command and control".

This uncharacteristically mild response from the Soviet defence establishment to the possibility of a separate Ukrainian army seemed intended to avoid creating further difficulties, and to calm Western fears about the emergence of several armies and nuclear weapons centres on the territory of the Soviet Union.

However, some of General Manilov's remarks suggested that the defence ministry's public calm concealed not only deep concern, but an element of panic.

Asked whether he could envisage a day when the Soviet army would no longer exist, he said "cutting up the Soviet armed forces into little pieces could provoke a cataclysm that humanity would hardly be able to survive", adding: "I am sure that economic and political considerations will not allow that to happen."

Kiev: The Ukrainian parliament rejected government plans for post-independence economic reform yesterday. Only 221 of the 450 deputies voted for proposals to create a new central bank, introduce a separate currency and encourage private property. Radical deputies called for faster change and demanded the resignation of prime minister, Vitold Fokin. (Reuters)

Yeltsin's future, page 16

Israel reopens embassy

From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

ARYE Levin, who is about to become Israel's first ambassador in Moscow for a quarter of a century, stood bareheaded in the street yesterday, joining about 100 well-wishers in a brief ceremony to mark the republic's formal reopening. In a gesture no less historic for being endlessly predicted, he removed a plaque describing the featureless, pale yellow building as a "consulate-general" and restored the old name designating it, in Russian and Hebrew, an embassy. Then he hoisted an Israeli flag and joined the small crowd in Israel's national anthem.

Mr Levin will become ambassador as soon as he presents his credentials to Mr Gorbachev. The resumption of full diplomatic ties, which will help clear the path for the Middle East peace conference, closes a chapter that began when the Soviet Union severed ties with Israel as a result of the six-day war in 1967.

Over the past two years, as an endless stream of would-be emigrants to Israel gathered outside its gates, the building's status has been gradually upgraded from that of an "Israeli section" at the Dutch embassy which used to represent the country's interests. Asked about prospects for direct ties with the old Soviet republics, Mr Levin said cautiously that the Russian Federation was not, as yet, a fully sovereign state but that the issue might arise in the future.

Poles favour former marxist as premier

From ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

JACEK Kuron, the former Solidarity dissident, is emerging as the strongest candidate for Polish prime minister after the parliamentary elections on Sunday. Mr Kuron, aged 57, the *déité noire* of communist regimes in Warsaw and Moscow for 25 years, is topping every opinion poll. The latest survey shows that 84 per cent of Poles regard him as the most trustworthy politician.

He has attracted a large following among women. In a serious poll last week, 503 out of 1,500 women questioned in Poznan said they could imagine themselves falling in love with Mr Kuron.

If Mr Kuron wins, Western heads of government will have to adjust to a different kind of statesman. As minister of labour in the first Solidarity government, he tried unsuccessfully to put on a suit ("It's like riding a bicycle," he told colleagues, "either you can do it, or you can't") and now wears jeans. He chain-smokes, swears, frequently scratches himself and has a taste, rarely satisfied, for Scotch whisky.

The political logic of Mr Kuron heading the Polish government is as follows: the biggest party after the elections is almost certain to be the Democratic Union led by Tadeusz Mazowiecki, a former prime minister. This party, a blend of Christian and social democracy, emerged after the Solidarity movement splintered and was originally aimed at defending Mr Mazowiecki's policies against

the criticism of Mr Walesa in the right wing.

But the choice of premier is President Walesa's and he is unlikely to pick Mr Mazowiecki. "Tadeusz wants to return to the position from which he was dismissed after he lost," the president said. Mr Walesa could ask Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, the present premier, to stay but Mr Bielecki's party — the liberal



Kuron: regarded as most trustworthy politician

Democratic Congress — is doing poorly. Mr Kuron, from the Democratic Union, appears a strong candidate — committed to free-market reforms and shock therapy, but also sensitive to the problems of the unemployed.

Even so, there are those with doubts. Mr Kuron began his political career as a committed marxist. When he first distinguished himself as a dissident, it was from the Trotskyite viewpoint. In 1964 he was expelled from the party and jailed.

Party doubts grow over Mitterrand

Many in the president's own party are asking how long Mitterrand can ignore the feeling that he is losing his grip, John Phillips writes from Paris

AS PRESIDENT Mitterrand prepares to celebrate his 75th birthday tomorrow after a week of ominous strikes, many of his own socialist acolytes are asking how long he can turn a deaf ear to a growing body of opinion that says he is losing his grip.

A one-day general strike for higher wages by the three main trade union federations disrupted metro, bus and train services in and around Paris yesterday. Dockers refused to unload cargoes at French ports, electricity supplies fell by 20 per cent and demonstrations by nurses, social workers and physiotherapists disrupted traffic in the capital.

Even many Paris taxi drivers stayed at home. A components factory strike has hit the state-run Renault car firm badly and the socialist mayor of Clermont-Ferrand struck a chord nationally when he resigned over ineffectual government relief for workers laid off by the Michelin tyre concern. Union leaders see yesterday's stoppage as a dress rehearsal for a general strike they plan for next month.

At a tense cabinet meeting, President Mitterrand praised his protégé Edith Cresson, the increasingly unpopular prime minister, for obtaining a settlement in civil service

pay talks on Tuesday. But treasury officials fear the 6.5 per cent increase for 4.5 million government workers and 1.5 million pensioners will hurt the economy.

President Mitterrand also defended Mme Cresson's turbulent five months in office in a radio interview this week, but political observers believe he must soon decide to sacrifice her to prevent his own popularity slipping too far. Many socialist deputies are so fed up with Mme Cresson that they did not bother to listen to the president's broadcast. *Libération* newspaper reported, said those who did were not very impressed. Jean Le Garrec, the socialist parliamentary group spokesman, said the interview was "well-perceived but insufficient".

A plan announced by Mitterrand on Wednesday to give pensions to peasants who want to take early retirement was received well by leaders of farmers' unions. But police in rural areas fear more violent protests.

In the National Assembly yesterday, Mme Cresson's minority government had to rely once again on the grand will of the hardline Communist party to survive a censure motion.

The left-wing daily *Le Monde* said assertions by opposition leaders that the president was losing his touch in his advanced years needed to be taken seriously. "As he prepares to celebrate his 75th birthday, he especially cannot be unaware that he has not heard the last reproaches by his adversaries of living 'out of time'." It said.

An opinion poll conducted for RTL Radio and *Le Monde* showed that growing malaise over the state of France after ten years under Mitterrand was benefiting Jean-Marie Le Pen, the right-wing extremist. As many as 32 per cent of French people — 14 points more than in September — said they supported his headline views on Arab and African immigration.

Most political pundits agree that only a miracle could save Mme Cresson from being replaced next spring in order to give a new prime minister time to prepare for general elections in 1993.

● Campaign halted: French farmers yesterday halted their campaign of often violent protests after President Mitterrand announced his proposals to help them. National and regional farmers' leaders said they had decided to give the government time to implement the measures. (Reuters)

Austrians critical of Jews

Vienna — Nearly a third of Austrians dislike Jews and foreigners, according to poll results published hours before a march to combat anti-Semitism yesterday. The findings by the Gallup institute highlighted the main campaign theme of Vienna's municipal elections next month — the treatment of foreigners.

Nineteen per cent of those questioned said they believed it would be better if there were no Jews in Austria, 20 per cent thought Jews should be barred from top jobs and 31 per cent did not want Jewish neighbourhoods. Almost a third of 2,000 people polled said Jews exploited the holocaust "for their own ends" and more than half wanted an end to its commemoration.

The poll, commissioned by the American Jewish Committee, was made public as Austria's student federation prepared to march through Vienna in protest against renewed attacks on Jewish graves. (Reuters)

Basque deaths

San Sebastian — Two civil guards were killed by hooded gunmen in Spain's volatile Basque country and police failed another attack when they defused a car bomb in the northeastern city of Zaragoza. The attacks are believed to be the work of the Basque separatists, Eta. (Reuters)

Hot seat

Arnhem — The Smeenk family's toilet has exploded for the second time in two years. The Environmental Inspection Authority is baffled, though a spokeswoman noted that a petrochemical complex nearby used the same Dutch sewer system. (AP)

Nuclear pull-out finished

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

ALL of the Soviet Union's nuclear weapons have now been removed from what was east Germany, and Moscow is trying to accelerate the withdrawal of its remaining troops in an effort to persuade Bonn to increase its financial support for the Soviet economy. There are even suggestions that Erich Honecker, the former East German leader living in exile near Moscow, could be sent home to stand trial if a new aid package is agreed.

Financial experts from the Group of Seven industrialised nations are meeting in Moscow at the weekend to discuss the economic situation in the Soviet Union and ways in which help should be given. Yesterday Hans Kähler, the junior finance minister, said in Bonn that Western help might be needed to ward off a "liquidity crisis".

By removing its atomic weapons, the Soviet Union has carefully wooed public opinion in Germany, where there is growing impatience with the slowness of Nam in withdrawing the short-range nuclear missiles and artillery shells still deployed where they could reach only German territory.

Nikolai Fedorov, the Russian justice minister, has promised that Herr Honecker will be sent back to Germany as soon as doctors certify him fit and well. Klaus Kinkel, the German justice minister, who has just returned from a visit to Moscow in press for the former East German leader's repatriation, has said charges against Herr Honecker could be widened. He is already wanted for issuing the shoot-to-kill orders which led to 200 people being killed as they tried to escape from East Germany to the West.

Citizen Hearst still casts a giant shadow

From CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK



Polishing a legend: Hearst's notoriety lives on. Now his son is cleaning up the press baron's image

IN THE American newspaper business, there has been no more towering figure than William Randolph Hearst, who wielded the kind of power of which modern press barons can only dream.

Hearst was known as a ruthless, flamboyant giant of the age and his notoriety lives on thanks to *Citizen Kane*. Orson Welles's caricature of him. Hearst never responded to his critics. But now, 40 years since he died, his son William Randolph Jr has written a book — *The Hearsts: Father and Son* — which he hopes will vindicate the old man.

"My father has been described as the personification of evil genius. That is a tragic oversimplification," says Hearst, who is aged 83 and has spent his life reporting, far and then running, his father's newspapers. "Pop was a man of countless hues, an incredibly adventurous individual with a boundless

spirit and outlook. He was also very patriotic."

Frail and wistful "Bill" Hearst can be found on the second floor of the art-deco Hearst building on Eighth Avenue. It is like visiting New York's old newspaper days, the era of gangsters and wise-cracking reporters, corrupt mayors and hold-the-front-page editors.

The tycoon stares down from a portrait as his son defends him. Hearst was misunderstood, he says. He may have been something of a bully and a taskmaster, but he was a champion of the underdog and a man of decency. "There was a lot of bad publicity from Orson Welles and one or two others, most of it written by people who never met him, never even shook his hand. It never bothered him. He didn't ever see *Citizen Kane* and nor did I." He does concede that Hearst's Hollywood friends, notably Louis

Meyer, almost ran Welles out of town.

According to the son, Hearst did more for American education than the schools and universities because his popular "yellow press" papers encouraged so many to read. Mr Hearst also punctured a legend of American journalism — a telegram his father was said to have written to Frederick Remington, the artist he had sent to Cuba during its battle for independence from Spain. The telegram was said to have read: "You furnish the pictures and I'll furnish the war."

"Pop told me he never sent any such cable and there has never been any proof that he did," says Mr Hearst. The proprietor of the *New York Journal* is nevertheless credited, along with Joseph Pulitzer, his rival, with effectively launching the Spanish-American war as a weapon in their circulation battle.

Khmer Rouge hails peace as Hanoi defeat

By JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

KHMER Rouge guerrillas have hailed the Cambodian peace accord as a victory over Vietnam. "From now on the Vietnamese aggressor forces or authorities can no longer stay in Cambodia," a Khmer Rouge radio commentary said yesterday, adding: "This is a great historic victory for our nation and our people... Our country will be completely liberated."

The United Nations-brokered peace accord, signed in Paris on Wednesday, formally ends a war which began when Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1978 to oust the Khmer Rouge. Hanoi officially withdrew its troops in September 1989, leaving the government it set up to fight alone against the Chinese and Western-backed guerrilla alliance.

Since the signing came at 1.30am Cambodian time, there were no fireworks or signs of jubilation in the Cambodian capital, giving the first hours of peace a certain tentative feeling. "The streets were totally deserted," said an Australian diplomat who drove home from his country's new embassy in the early hours. Early yesterday another diplomat said: "It's business much as usual." A woman shopkeeper in Monivong Avenue, one of Phnom Penh's main streets, said: "I am happy, of course, but I think we all have to wait and see."

Later yesterday, the ruling People's party, which last week dropped the word "revolutionary" from its title and dumped socialism in favour of free-market economics and liberal democracy, held a rally in front of the royal palace. Suddenly, all the red banners have become blue, although their messages still have a certain revolutionary flavour. "Long live the Cambodian people," said one streaming over the dancing pavilion at the palace. "Hail the victories of the People's party of Cambodia," said another.

Old habits die hard, and the rally of about 10,000 people was as "spontaneous" as they ever were here, most spectators arriving in lorries, and soldiers goose-stepping in the correct Red Square manner.

Chea Sim, the party's president and an old-style marxist now suddenly converted to the market ideas of Adam Smith, called on Cambodians to "strengthen and consolidate the spirit of national reconciliation and do everything for peace in Cambodia".

Not once during a 20-minute speech did he mention the Khmer Rouge, under whose rule up to a million people died in Cambodia. But the Khmer Rouge is represented on the Supreme National Council, headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, which will embody Cambodia's sovereignty until United Nations-supervised elections in 1993.

Two Khmer Rouge leaders will travel to Phnom Penh after Prince Sihanouk returns next month. The prospect is a chilling one for Cambodians.

A government aide said that, in the interests of "national reconciliation", negative references to Khmer Rouge genocide are likely to be toned down or dropped. "We cannot forget the past holocaust," he said. "But now we want peace."

Aborigines demand clean-up

Sydney — Aboriginal leaders arrive in London today to press their demand for the British government to clean up severe radioactive contamination left on their lands in South Australia by British nuclear tests in the 1950s and 1960s (Robert Cockburn writes).

Bob Hawke, the Australian prime minister, has formally asked Britain to help pay for a \$493 million (£43 million) clean-up at the former Maralinga nuclear range, but the government has refused to accept responsibility.

Flag burned

Ulaan Bator — Mongolian students have begun a demonstration against repression in the Chinese region of Inner Mongolia, pitching a tent and burning the Chinese flag outside Peking's embassy. The eight students said they would stay until China promised to stop abusing human rights in Inner Mongolia. (Reuters)

Hong Kong snub

Hong Kong — In a direct snub for Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement, Sir David Wilson, the governor, yesterday declined to appoint any liberals to the executive council, the territory's main policy-making body, which will sit for two years. Instead he appointed ten mostly conservative legislators. (AFP)

Drinking on duty

Seoul — South Korea's Supreme Court has ordered compensation of £52,000 to the widow of a businessman who died after drinking with clients "in the line of duty". Park Byung-Kun worked for the Orion Chemical Company. (AFP)

Japan revels in the birth of a princess

From JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

PRINCESS Kiko, aged 25, the wife of Prince Akishino, the Japanese emperor's second son, gave birth on Wednesday night to a healthy 7lb girl, presiding Emperor Akishino with his first grandchild.

Delighted mothers and grandmothers all over the country revelled in the excitement over their favourite fairy-tale princess, a commoer who married Prince Akishino 16 months ago. Members of the imperial family, however, maintained a dignified sobriety in



Princess Kiko: style is mimicked by millions

keeping with their protocol-ridged existence. All live sheltered lives of Victorian respectability hidden from the public gaze by the imperial household agency.

Toshiko Kaifu, the prime minister, said he was pleased. The doctor in charge pronounced himself satisfied with the birth, and Princess Kiko herself said, with due Japanese humility, that all credit should go to everyone else. Her father composed a classical Chinese poem, and the emperor presented the baby with a

traditional Japanese sword for self-protection.

Only the 25-year-old father permitted himself a broad if brief smile, claiming with startling candour that the baby "is very pretty, just like me". This polite exchange with the press was abruptly terminated as his minders hustled him into a car. But there were ooos of the pavement skirmishes that accompany the birth of a British royal: Japan's imperial press posse is a disciplined brigade of senior reporters, veiled by the omnipotent imperial agency.

There may have been one or two red faces among the imperial medical corps, which had predicted that the baby would not appear until October 30. They may yet be rehearsing low bows and composing humble statements of regret over their folly in misreading the imperial infant's signals.

Princess Kiko's every grin, giggle and girlish hairstyle has been mimicked by millions of adoring fans. She met her Prince Charming in a bookshop on the Gakushuin college campus, where he was studying politics and her father is professor of economics.

The prince proposed in 1986 when their car was held up at traffic lights, and Japan's Cinderella was welcomed into the imperial family with awesome politesse. The princess has since passed her time dabbling on the zither while the prince has pursued his great passion — research into the habits of catfish, a topic he studied with dedication at St John's College, Oxford.

Koreans agree to draft pact

From REUTERS IN SEOUL

THE prime ministers of communist North Korea and capitalist South Korea ended talks yesterday with an agreement to draft a non-aggression pact, the first real progress since their meetings began 14 months ago.

But analysts and officials said it was too early to predict a thaw in relations. They said both would need to make concessions before the pact could be completed.

Yon Hyong Muik, the North Korean prime minister, and Chung Won Shik, his South Korean counterpart, also agreed to meet in Seoul for a fifth round of talks from December 10 to 13. Until then, officials from both sides will try to draft a pact.

Officials in both North and South Korea described the agreement to try to unite their policies in a single pact on reconciliation and non-aggression as a great leap towards reunification. But analysts in Seoul said the two sides remained far apart in their basic approaches.

The prime ministers of the two Koreas have now met four times since September last year.



Joan Collins, weighed down by bouquets of roses, acknowledges the applause after her American stage debut in *Private Lives*, by Noel Coward, in Denver

Anti-Mobutu riots erupt in Kinshasa

From REUTERS AND ASSOCIATED PRESS IN KINSHASA

VIOLENT protests against President Mobutu of Zaire erupted yesterday as loyal troops battled crowds of demonstrators. Cars and buses were burnt and several casualties were confirmed in Kinshasa, the capital, but no deaths were reported.

The violence was provoked by Marshal Mobutu's refusal on Wednesday to reappoint Etienne Tshisekedi, the opposition leader and his long-standing rival, as prime minister. Instead he called on Bernardia Mungul Diaka, aged 57, to form a government. "We want Tshisekedi and nobody else," a young man shouted.

Seconds later hundreds of demonstrators sprinted for cover as a jeep-load of the president's Special Presidential Division drew up and began firing automatic rifles into the air. An ambulance sped by with a wounded man clinging to its bonnet.

Witnesses said several demonstrators were wounded by bullets. A central Kinshasa clinic said one victim was having emergency surgery. Diplomatic sources said a Frenchman lost an eye after he was hit by a stone thrown at his car in the Limete area.

As Mr Mungul said he would start forming a government yesterday, there were clashes throughout poor areas of the city. In Matonge, opposition crowds sacked the damaged headquarters of Marshal Mobutu's Popular Revolutionary Movement. The building was a prime target of army-led looting last month which laid waste to Kinshasa and caused 15,000 foreigners to flee the city. Zaire newspapers said at least 117 people died in the rioting and subsequent riots by soldiers and civilians in Kinshasa and several other important cities.

There was no immediate comment on yesterday's violence from Western governments which had been putting pressure on President Mobutu to accept Mr Tshisekedi. Belgium, France and the United States have said they will not support a prime minister who is not seen as credible by the opposition.

More than 800 Belgian troops remain in Zaire, and Brussels has said they will stay as long as they are needed to protect Zaireans as well as foreigners. Earlier this week an outbreak of looting by unpaid Zairean soldiers in Lubumbashi, Zaire's mining capital, led to a new evacuation of foreigners.

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GALLERIES: LONDON

Delicate strokes and intimate lines

From ruddy Guercino chalks to Michelangelo sketches: Richard Cork delights in a masterful collection of drawings at the Courtauld Gallery

A winter morning in Colchester, and the sun has just ousted the dawn mist which once obscured the castle. Incandescent light pours down Middle Hill towards the pool below, where a horse pauses to drink. In Turner's watercolour, the sun's advent becomes a revelatory moment. A youth astride a horse flings his arms high in the air, probably at the sight of the bare racing away from a dog in the foreground. But his gesture also sums up the sense of exhilaration we feel, as the entire scene is transformed into a place of hazy enchantment.

Hanging at the far end of the Courtauld Galleries' Master Drawings exhibition, this ecstatic watercolour offers an appropriate climax to a show filled with similar wonders. Until now, the Courtauld's celebrated paintings have hogged all the attention, disguising the fact that an exceptional array of drawings is also housed in the same collection. But with the opening of this superb survey, which includes images never previously displayed in public, the misapprehension has been rectified at last.

Unlike the Post-Impressionists across the courtyard, still struggling to look their best in an anomalous 18th century interior, the drawings all seem snugly at home. Mounted on sloping panels placed as near to the glass as possible, and lit more generously than museums often permit, they establish an intimate relationship with the viewer at once. We can become almost as closely involved with these fragile sheets of paper as their former owners must have been.

Drawing used to be a far more private activity than painting, and most of these images were never exhibited during their makers' lifetimes. Instead, they were kept in drawers and portfolios for reference, ready to be passed eagerly from hand to hand by pupils and connoisseurs hungry for the insights which draughtsmanship alone can provide.

Collectors as discriminating as Count Antoine Seilern and Sir Robert Witt, whose bequests form the backbone of the present show, helped to ensure the drawings' survival. But so much has been lost, and Hugo van der Goe's exquisite study of a female saint is one of only two drawings now firmly attributed to him.

Brushed in with grey-brown wash, and then heightened with delicate strokes of white, she emerges from the green prepared paper like a blanched apparition from the sea. The circlet in her hair denotes virginity, and she appears very retiring. Her composure, though, is absolute: nobody could be more poised than this serenely seated figure. Her stillness contrasts with the turbulence of Van der Goe's himself, whose later years were plagued by mental instability.

Almost as rare are undisputed

drawings by Bellini, and the Courtauld's ink study of naivety is delightful. Rather than producing a grandiose pageant, attended by intrusive crowds of worshippers, Bellini opts for simplicity. The baby is propped up, with astonishing informality, on a cushion leant against his mother's bare feet. And the only visitors are the ox and the ass, kneeling so close to the child that their breath warms his naked body.

Drawing is admirably suited to the exploration of such intimacies. Carpaccio, who once worked under Bellini's direction in the Doge's Palace, shows just as much originality in his little sketch of the virgin reading to the infant Christ. Seated casually on a parapet, she holds out her book towards the boy perched on the same narrow ledge. The dotted lines along his outstretched leg add to the sense of spontaneity.

Even Carpaccio, however, cannot vie with the vivacity in Leonardo's tiny studies of Mary Magdalene. His line lassos her just as she lifts the top off an alabaster box of ointment. With an unprecedented grasp of contradictory movement, Leonardo defines the action of Mary's hand-drawn arm even as her head swings away in the opposite direction.

The drawing's subtle dynamism utterly transcends its true dimensions.

No matter how minuscule their paper, the masters of the High Renaissance were able to outline the most monumental forms imaginable. The sheet where Michelangelo drew his virgin and child is little more than a scrap, but he builds up an image as substantial as the stone block at its base. Since the sombre virgin rests her left foot on it and gazes down, Michelangelo may have envisaged the statue occupying a lofty position. Her *gravitas* is, however, challenged by the boy who tugs playfully at her head-dress. As for Michelangelo's pen-strokes, they attack the bulk of her draperies as forcefully as a chisel uncovering form within the marble.

Their rough power could hardly be further removed from the polished use of black chalk in another, far larger and more elaborate Michelangelo drawing. Made for Tommaso de' Cavalieri, the young Roman nobleman with whom he was infatuated, *The Dream of Human Life* is a consummate display of refined draughtsmanship. Its high degree of detail may not appeal as directly to the modern viewer as the free pen sketch. But Michelangelo's prowess is still astounding, as he plays off the highly wrought body of the awakening youth against the less densely modelled figures of the Vices encircling him.

The youth is so convincingly realised in all his muscularity that he could easily be a statue, copied by Michelangelo from an antique source. Some of the finest drawings



Consummate display of refined draughtsmanship: Michelangelo's chalk drawing *The Dream of Human Life*

in the show are just such acts of homage. Rubens, obsessed by the Farnese Hercules, studies the head with such passionate engagement that the hurly profile sheds its stoniness and stirs into life. Tintoretto goes further still. Placing three vigorous copies of Michelangelo's *Samson and the Philistines* on one page, he repeats the same view of the figure's flailing arm like three consecutive stills in a strip of film.

The outcome is startlingly cinematic, charging Michelangelo's sculpture with even more dynamism than it possessed already. But the exhibition is full of drawings which appear to be straightforward studies from the model and turn out, quite unpredictably, to be alive with intense personal significance.

Take Pontormo's *Seated Youth*, doubtless based on the mundane sight of a workshop assistant at rest. Commandingly placed on the sheet, so that half of it remains empty, the figure undergoes a disconcerting transformation. With one hand

pressed anxiously against his mouth, he cowers against a large box. The fear implicit in his pose is confirmed by the eyes, wildly enlarged and staring beneath contorted brows.

The seated model here becomes an embodiment of the artist's chronic unease, whereas Guercino discovers limitless beneficence in his study of a child standing between his mother's knees. Caught off-balance, and tipping to the left, the child is steadied by a parental hand.

At first glance, Rembrandt's drawing of his wife Saskia with their first baby, Rumbartus, offers similar comfort. She peers out from a bed-

curtain, her arms wrapped around the infant. All the same, Rembrandt's nervous handling of red chalk is far more daring and less substantial than Guercino's. Both mother and baby look vulnerable within the tangle of linen and blankets. While Saskia's love for the child is movingly conveyed, she also seems burdened with concern for the solemn burden in her embrace. The fear was prophetic, for Rumbartus died only a few months after the drawing was carried out.

However swift and spontaneous such images may appear, they often compress layers of meaning as complex and subtle as a painting. So although the Courtauld's Prints and Drawings Room is smaller by far than the grand galleries filled with paintings nearby, its contents deserve an equal amount of rapt attention.

Master Drawings from the Courtauld Collection continues at Somerset House, the Strand (071-873 2526) until January 19.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Swiss back on the musical map

Geneva's local orchestra is regaining the international reputation it enjoyed in the Fifties, Hilary Finch writes

Ron Golan, secretary-general of Geneva's Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, is a dapper, fast-thinking, fast-talking viola player. A one-time German émigré to Israel, lionised in his day by Hindemith and Martinu, he is now the orchestra's businessman supreme, as well as honorary uncle to every player in the band. Until he took over as orchestral manager in 1970, touring was virtually unheard of. When the OSR appears at the Barbican on Tuesday, it will be the orchestra's London debut, and the start of its first ever British tour.

The Orchestre de la Suisse Romande under Ernest Ansermet "is a phrase which still echoes in British ears in the reassuring tones of Third Programme radio announcers of the 1950s. Ansermet was the orchestra: he was its only tradition."

Decca's recording engineers experimented with and refined the developing sound techniques of that decade primarily by using the superb natural acoustic of Geneva's Victoria Hall and the unique instrument of Ansermet's OSR. Conductors such as Toscanini, Furtwängler and Bruno Walter came to Geneva. Recordings of Debussy's *La Mer*, Falla's *Three-Cornered Hat* and Berlioz's *Les Nuits d'été* with Régine Crespin became historic documents. Premières of Debussy, Ravel, Prokofiev and Stravinsky took place in the small town of Calvin, Roussseau and the wristwatch. Geneva was at last on the musical map.

Ansermet left the orchestra in 1968 and Armin Jordan, its present musical director, arrived in 1983. The intervening years saw a succession of conductors unable to prevent the orchestra losing its identity and returning to partial obscurity, but Jordan's strong direction and Ron Golan's indefatigable cultivation of contacts and sponsors for a new biennial touring programme have put the orchestra back into the international spotlight.

With a little help from Crédit Suisse and Swissair, among others, London, Birmingham and Cardiff audiences will hear an orchestra whose *identité sonore* is still, or rather once again, unmistakable.

Ansermet created the transparent clarity, the sweet, high relief of brass and wind soloists. Jordan, conveniently born to French and German parentage in Lucerne, now plays the instrument with sensuous enjoyment — but also with a shrewd ear to the activities of his European neighbours and the demands of a highly competitive international recording catalogue.

Fascinated, for example, by the observation that British orchestras can play almost anything idiomatically, yet

without an individual identity instantly recognisable by the innocent ear. Jordan is experimenting with ways of expanding the orchestra's repertoire without blunting its profile.

At the Barbican, and in Birmingham and Cardiff, for instance, the orchestra will play works by Schubert, Mozart, Beethoven and Mahler — not composers with whom audiences would necessarily have associated the OSR in the past.

"I want to adapt our repertoire to our style, rather than changing our style to suit the repertoire," says Jordan. The results so far have included an award-winning recording of Schumann's *Das Paradies und die Peri* and a recent, fascinatingly idiosyncratic version of Mahler's Fourth Symphony.



Providing strong direction: conductor Armin Jordan

The final concert of the tour, at the Festival Hall on November 1, presents a more typical programme — with works by Frank Martin, Debussy, Prokofiev and Ravel — to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the Swiss Confederation. With writers such as Friedrich Dürrenmatt and Max Frisch, and musicians such as Aurèle Nicolet and Heinz Holliger making loud protests against the year's celebrations, where does Jordan stand?

"These protests are *de la vanité, de la puberté*. If you're against it all, you have to prove it every day, not just in this one situation. These people just want their names in the papers. Who are we working and playing for anyway? And are the Swiss any worse than the British? *Tous les pays sont des cons, après tout...*"

● The Orchestre de la Suisse Romande appears at the Barbican on Tuesday, Birmingham Symphony Hall on Wednesday, St David's Hall, Cardiff on Thursday and the Royal Festival Hall, London on November 1.

ARTS REVIEWS

Theatre, classical music and opera
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EXPERIMENTAL ART

Within this model art world, nothing stands still

Jim Hiley reports on a high-tech laboratory for culture in France, and the British artists who helped launch it last week

The shape of art to come is soon to be unveiled at a disused fun palace, three hours from Dover by ferry and road. When it opens officially in November 1993, L'Ecole d'Art du Fresnoy will hardly fit the profile of a traditional academy, despite its title. It is intended as a cultural hothouse for a new, outward-looking Europe, with a programme as ambitious as its setting is bizarre.

A total of 130 million francs (£13.13 million) is being spent by the state government, together with local and regional authorities, to create a high-tech laboratory for the international avant-garde in northern France. Exhibitions, master classes and performances will be staged throughout the year.

"We see it as a *poisson pilote*," says Georges Tournès, of the Ministry of Culture, "to lead our partners in Europe and elsewhere towards co-operation on experiments in art." What makes the venture unique is its aim of dismantling barriers both between art forms and between artists from all over the world. Until the 1960s, the com-



Sculptures with a life of their own: two of Taylor Woodrow's three *Living Paintings*

plex known as Le Fresnoy provided the citizens of Tourcoing, near Lille, with a dance hall, cinema, boxing arena, skating rink and swimming bath, not to mention several bars and a riding school. Today, it resembles a collection of an deco aircraft hangars, whose disintegrating paintwork and leaking roofs fail to disguise its almost foolhardy grandeur.

The next two years will see the restoration of the performance spaces, and the building of rehearsal rooms and studios for music, drama, painting, sculpture, photography, video and film. Editing suites, laser equipment and

holography workshops will stand alongside.

"We expect to take students qualified in every type of visual and performing art," explains Alain Fleischer, Le Fresnoy's director. "They will not read theory, but will mount work for public display on a professional scale and with professional resources. The faculty will consist of celebrated artists, visiting us to oversee the students and to put their own latest wares on show." Although financial support for Le Fresnoy comes entirely from France, it is possible that, at any given time, none of the students or their mentors will be French.

Fleischer believes that his scheme's geographical location makes it especially suitable for — and neatly symbolises — its aesthetic mission. The opening of the channel tunnel and new rail links in northern France will expedite the coming-together of nations on a practical level, simultaneously. Le Fresnoy will serve as a melting pot for fresh alliances in art.

"Each of our projects will combine at least two artistic disciplines," says Fleischer. "We shall expect our painters to collaborate with dancers for example. And sculptors to work in computer graphics." To provide a taste of what

the future holds, he launched his scheme last weekend with a series of exhibitions and performances called "Les Arts Étonnants". Prominent among the participants were three British artists: Stephen Taylor Woodrow, Heather Ackroyd and Daniel Harvey.

All three trained as sculptors but now occupy the meeting ground of visual art and drama — somewhere between "performance theatre" and "live art" — and build large-scale installations, often enhanced by the presence of actors. Fleischer says Britain is especially well endowed with prototypes of the new model artist he hopes will throng Le Fresnoy from 1993.

"I see this work as a speciality of your country," he says. "I couldn't yet bring anything similar from Germany, Italy, or Spain. The British have been a revelation for audiences at Le Fresnoy."

In the former skating rink at Le Fresnoy, Taylor Woodrow erected a mock Greek temple with the interior of a supermarket, including security mirrors and shelves of goods for sale. This vast installation, called *Good Buy Cruel World*, took a satirical dig at the deification of commerce. Everything on the inside was coloured in pastel green — even the check-out girl.

Next door, Taylor Woodrow's *Going Bye Byes* consisted of two rows of hospital beds, some dilapidated, some neat and tidy. At first, they appeared empty. On closer inspection, the blanched faces of real people could be seen

poking through the pillows. Hushed spectators studied the get-well cards, or pressed food and drink into the mouths of the "patients".

In the dance hall, Taylor Woodrow staged *The Living Paintings*: three mute performers were hoisted within frames above the passers-by, whom they engaged in improvised scenes. I saw the figures take cigarettes and cameras from members of the public. Once, apparently, a woman stripped naked before the triptych.

For their installation, *Im-planted Spirit*, Heather Ackroyd and Daniel Harvey took over the caretaker's apartment, "accelerating" the decay which has afflicted Le Fresnoy since the 1960s. Grass covered the walls and a sculpted figure by an ancient gramophone. Roadstools sprouted beside the bath, and extra holes had been drilled in the ceiling, turning a bedroom into an indoor pond. The effect was haunting, as if the caretaker's ghost were lurking in the shadows.

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An author in search of humility

After the Booker, what next? Ben Okri talks to Kate Muir about mood writing, deep listening and the need for uncertainty

For a man obsessed in his books with metamorphoses, Ben Okri is in great fear of changing himself. Ever since he came to England from Nigeria, aged 19, he has danced an uneasy path between assimilating and observing this second culture, avoiding being crushed and remoulded to fit his new home. If he slots nicely into the space provided by the establishment, he fears he will become a cardboard, two-dimensional writer.

Keeping that slight distance and unease will be harder now he is branded with the mark of British literary acceptability. At this very moment, in bookshops around the country, Mr Okri is being made into an enticing window display, and each book is being rewarded in the corner with a bright sticker: "Booker Prize Winner, 1991". Sales are even now quadrupling.

Mr Okri's euphoria, coupled with physical suffering due to recent excesses of champagne, cigarettes and conversation, has temporarily precluded him from taking up his Biro and his black Ryman's notebooks. "The problem with winning something like this," he says hoarsely, "is that it takes away your uncertainty. When I am certain about what I am doing, I tend to write rubbish." Sensibly, he is taking a break until his humility returns, and in the meantime doing the penance which accompanies such an award, the endless interviews, photo-sessions and drinks in the Groucho Club.

Fortunately for his humility, the Ben Okri who wrote *The Famished Road* is dead. "It seems to be very harsh, but you have to die

with each work or otherwise you end up endlessly recycling the same narrow spaces in your consciousness." He fears the same-plot-new-clothes syndrome which plagues many other writers. Already it should be clear that Mr Okri takes his writing seriously; himself less so. For instance, he can keep a straight face when he says he divides readers into two sorts, Homerians and Virgilians, and admits: "I have never disguised my love of Homer", and adds that he loves Flaubert, "of course." If another author were to talk the way he does about his craft, he would be slammed for his pretentiousness. But in his wise-innocent way, Mr Okri gets away with it. Mostly.

"When I get to the table to work, half the time I don't know what will turn up. But if you are truthful in

'When I am certain about what I am doing, I write rubbish'

an idea, everything is incarnate. You can take almost any single aspect, any sentence, of the book, and it will have the whole thing contained in it." He believes in "deep listening", waiting until he hears something clearly in his head, and then putting it down. This is coupled with "mood writing", more rhythmic and musical than logical.

He needed to get away from Nigeria to see it clearly. He believes if you stay in a place long enough, you become part of that environment.

Poking further into whether he rewrites or streams consciousness meets with a refusal, as though one has asked to look in his underwear drawer. "When other writers talk about their methods, I want to run away. I don't want to know their methods. It's like someone telling you how to make love."

He moves the conversation on



Okri outside the Tate Gallery: "When other writers talk about their methods, I want to run away. I don't want to know... It's like someone telling you how to make love."

swiftly from the physical to the spiritual, although his books slide happily between the two. He believes people are composed of more than three dimensions and the problem with modern England is that it prefers to keep any fourth dimension, any spirituality, hushed up, or safely pocketed in churches. Mr Okri's books are filled with ghosts, animism and magic. His protagonist in *The Famished Road* is a spirit child, who straddles the two worlds, in order to make sense of one. Life in Nigeria is so chaotic that it can only be understood by going beyond the reality.

"We have not explained everything yet, although people here behave as if we have. The world is full of mysteries. One can still tremble in the face of all-knowing, inscrutable forces, but at the same time realise that that might mean we have forces within us, and we

can acknowledge that power." This is easier to say coming from another culture. For a British author, admitting spirituality is well, a little embarrassing.

Back in Nigeria, Mr Okri thinks it is perhaps easier for people to be religious in the wider sense, because they are closer to suffering. In the first world, it is possible for a large number of people to cut themselves off from that. "Those living with suffering are in the prerequisite position for the religious state. Their egos are stripped bare, and they become aware of their own mortality. But anyone who is in that state must wonder: how can this just be it?"

Mr Okri has been down there too, less so in Nigeria, where he was the child of middle-class parents, his father a lawyer. But when he arrived in London, after a stint of comparative literature at Essex University, he tasted the life

of the starving-artist, becoming homeless at one point, and sleeping in tube stations. Although he now has a flat in Maidstone, north London, the Booker £20,000 means more to him than the other big names on the list.

He wrote two short stories in a burst of anger when he came to this country. "Why was I angry? It's so obvious, I don't need to tell you - the racism, the homelessness, the problems of getting accommodation... Now, at 32, looking sleek in a blue blazer and paisley scarf, he is pleased he recorded what he felt at the time. He has lost those rough edges, and finds he becomes more subtle as he understands more. After all, he has, this week, gone from being perceived as a slightly-known, black Nigerian writer, to a big name in English literature.

who happens to come from Nigeria. "I am aware of all the ironies, of what people have said. Not a single nuance of tone has escaped me."

The baggage of cultural assumption can be seen in many of the reviews of his two novels and short story collections. He says the biggest mistake is that most critics do not simply open the book and read it. He puts on a flat, stuffy voice. "They say: 'Ooh dear, I'm reading an African novel. Ooh dear, there are bound to be rituals and things.'"

His books, he says, become three books - the one he wrote; the one that comes out of the collision between the reader and the book; and "the worst one, when they put a set of their own assumptions on top of what they're reading, and then attribute it all to me."

He loathes being categorised at all and particularly as a magic realist. His latest book is told in the first person and from the realist point of view of Azaro, your ordinary, average, spirit-child. "For Azaro, seeing a room of spirits, or two-headed people is normal. He would find this space here," he says gesturing round his publisher's genteel office, "full of other beings", presumably the ghosts of starved authors waving rejection slips.

Mr Okri is beyond all that now, although he denies any intentions of becoming part of the literary. In fact he is secretly rather disappointed in all that. He chose to come to Britain rather than America, because of Dickens and Shakespeare. Surely a land which produced such greatness would have people to match? "I expected it to be a land filled with giants. It wasn't."

Will truth be the victim of marital rape?

Stripped of all the euphemisms, a man raping his wife is now officially breaking the law - if she can prove it

Now that marital rape has been ruled illegal, will dissent about consent become the new weapon in divorce? John Cornwell, a family lawyer with a wide experience of divorce cases, is worried that some wives might use the new ruling as a bargaining counter in a divorce settlement, along the lines of, "Unless you agree to what I want, I'll go to the police and say you raped me." But he says he would be surprised if this change in the law has any effect on his divorce practice for many years to come.

Stephen Cretney, a professor of law at the University of Bristol and the author of a number of books on family law, also doubts whether accusations of marital rape will surface in divorce cases. "When there were a lot of contested divorces a common complaint was excessive sexual demands. In effect, that was the same thing."

But now, astonishingly few contested divorce cases reach court: only six were fought to a conclusion in this country last year. So I don't think the questions of marital rape will be relevant.

"The only way it might be was if it was used to establish that a husband had behaved in such a way that it was no longer reasonable for a wife to put up with him. But a man likely to rape his wife is almost certain to have done other beastly things. No court will want to know whether he also insisted on intercourse with her against her will."

But if, as was widely predicted yesterday, there is a flurry of prosecutions following the Law Lords' ruling that men can be found guilty of raping their wives, Professor Cretney foresees problems in making the charges stick.

"The essence of rape is not, as people tend to think, violence, but lack of consent," he says. "Being able to prove lack of consent in such cases is going to be quite difficult."

"There may be some obvious cases where there is drunkenness, violence, a neighbour hearing things, but in most, almost by definition, there won't be a friendly third party who will have heard the man say, 'I don't care what you bloody well say...' The only evidence may be evidence of violent treatment and the wife's word - and it will be difficult for jurors to decide whether the woman did consent or not."

In Scotland, where rape in marriage has been a crime since 1989, a spokesman for the Law Society argued that the difficulty of proving lack of consent was no different from those in many cases of rape. But in the past two years, the Crown Office can only recall "a handful" of complaints being brought, and no cases involving couples living together have come to trial.

In England, Sally Sadler, a spokesman for the Crown Prosecution Service, welcomed the clarification, but pointed out that until the police put such cases to the service, it would not know what problems could arise. "The only thing that has changed is that we can now look at cases where there has been no separation order," she says. "The criteria for deciding whether we can prosecute won't change."

Guidelines laid down in the code for Crown prosecutors state that there has to be

sufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction. "A prosecution should not be started or continued unless the Crown prosecutor is satisfied that there is admissible, substantial and reliable evidence that a criminal offence known to the law has been committed by an identifiable person," Ms Sadler adds.

Yet, Professor Cretney suggests, it is these very guidelines which may prevent cases coming to court. To begin with, he anticipates difficulties in getting wives to give

evidence. He draws parallels with the problems facing those prosecuting in cases of domestic violence.

"The law that stated a wife couldn't be made to give evidence against her husband was revised in 1984 but making someone a compelling witness is a waste of time," Professor Cretney says.

Even where a wife is willing to give evidence the professor believes the Crown Prosecution Service may face an embarrassing situation. "In many criminal cases there is a



LEE RODWELL Fear in film: Julia Roberts in *Sleeping With The Enemy*, which examined marital humiliation

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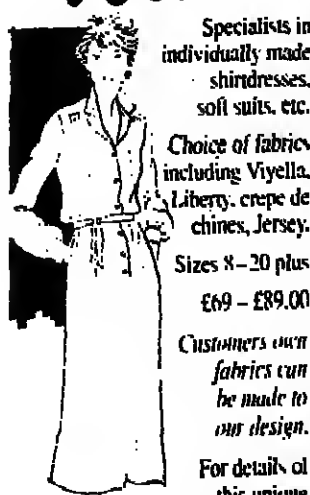
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Equality eroded

Charles Bremner on America's backlash against feminism

The Clarence Thomas hearings are said to have delivered more of a jolt to the American male than any since the women's movement battles in the early 1970s. But many women are less sure. If Anita Hill's account of sexual harassment was so typical and plausible, why did a majority of women, according to polls, believe that she was either lying or fantasising? An answer can be found in *Backlash: The Undeclared War against American Women* by Susan Faludi, which has been winning high praise from critics as a tour de force. The author, a 32-year-old journalist who has won the Pulitzer Prize for her investigative work, sets out to prove that American society has spent more than a decade deliberately undermining the gains women made in the 1970s.

Feeling threatened, men have used television, movies, advertising and the fashion industry to perpetuate false images of womanhood. The aim is to force women out of the office back into the bedroom and kitchen, she says.

She takes as her starting point the popular view that feminism was "the great experiment that failed", that by seeking to have it all, women found only misery. Professional women are said to suffer burn-out and breakdown and find themselves marooned in frustrated spinsterhood, while equality under marital law condemns divorced mothers to lives of isolation and poverty. All this, argues Ms Faludi, is nonsense. The great man shortage declared in the mid 1980s was a myth that sprang from an erroneous academic study, as did the so-called "infertility epidemic". Statistics, she says, show no sign of women deserting their jobs to return to motherhood as reported by the trend watchers.

Psychologists, talk show celebrities and plastic surgeons have fed off the backlash, she says, promoting anecdote and fantasy while ignoring studies which show that single women are far more emotionally stable than single men. She does not think the backlash is a conspiracy, but, taken as a whole, "these codes and cajoling, these whispers and threats and myths, move overwhelmingly in one direction: they try to push women back into their 'acceptable' roles".

Ms Faludi argues that the current fear and loathing of feminism follows a pattern repeated through American history since the late 1840s and the first American women's rights convention. It re-emerged at the time of the Edwardian suffragettes and again after the second world war, when the independence won by women while their men were abroad was suffocated by the traditionalism of the 1950s. The putdowns from Ronald Reagan and 1980s neo-conservatives were almost word-for-word the same as those voiced by their Victorian predecessors whenever women got uppity.

The unemployment and falling incomes suffered by the lower American classes in the 1980s heightened men's resentment. As a result, they have reasserted their dominance in the upper echelons of business, government and the judiciary. The gap between male and female pay is widening again, and Ms Faludi argues that the powerful anti-abortion movement, which has almost succeeded in reversing the US law, is men's way of putting the brakes on women's "bedroom liberation".

Ms Faludi ends her passionate, 460-page diatribe with a note of hope. No matter how much frightening misinformation is being fed to them through the media and popular culture, "women continue to postpone their wedding dates, limit their family size and combine work with having children".

Mary Dejevsky reports from Moscow on a wave of chaos threatening to wash away all respect for authority

Can Yeltsin keep control?



Yeltsin: may soon be an autocrat

A newspaper cartoon shows a lone demonstrator waving a banner that reads "I don't understand anything". An influential newspaper editor, Vitali Tretyakov, writes in the same vein: "What is happening in our country seems hard to encapsulate in a single integrated idea or concept." From the epic Russian question "what is to be done?", the dial has spun backwards to the still more basic "what is going on?"

From academic institutes to the media or the streets, opinions span a narrow spectrum from the resigned to the apocalyptic. Words like "disaster", "catastrophe" and "despair" pepper news bulletins and conversations. There are forecasts of millions of unemployed, of widespread cold and hunger, of hyperinflation to rival that of Germany in the 1930s, and of growing civil unrest.

Outside the territory of what used to be the Soviet Union, people may be forgiven for thinking that they have heard all this before, exactly a year ago, when President Gorbachev and his envoys were rushing around

the world soliciting credits and food aid for a famine that never happened and was never likely to happen. There is no evidence that famine is any more likely this winter. But there is a world of difference between October 1990 and October 1991. Last year, there were individuals and institutions trying to govern the country. This year, for all practical purposes, no one is in charge.

On the threshold of last winter there was an authoritative national leader, Mikhail Gorbachev; there was a national parliament capable of passing legislation, however ineffective it might subsequently prove; there was a national government headed by a weakly perhaps, but headed none the less by Nikolai Ryzhkov, and there was a large central bureaucracy with years of experience in pulling the strings of the central economy. There was also the semblance of a single army and the KGB.

But this year, the national leader, gravely wounded by the treachery of the institutions on which he relied, has almost left the fray, emerging only periodically to talk to foreign businessmen, discuss arms control or chair meetings.

The new national parliament, with only seven of the 12 republics in its ranks, has after a long and arduous struggle replaced after the coup by an "interim committee on the economy" whose purpose, it seems, is merely to plug the most glaring economic gaps.

An economic agreement between the republics, supposed to hold the union together, was signed last week by only eight

republics. Every one but Gennadi Yavlinsky, the economic guru who drafted it, and Mr Gorbachev, who commissioned it, openly dismiss it as unrealistic. The appearance of unity in the armed forces and the KGB was shattered by the coup, and while the en-trails of these institutions still inspire fear, they are no longer able to unite a disintegrating country.

However, the present desperate confusion derives less from the inevitable collapse of central control than from the inability of the republics — most glaringly the dominant Russian Federation — to govern themselves. Smaller republics, including those in Central Asia are by and large

administratively better placed to pass into the new era. The big failure has been Russia.

Russia's post-coup optimism was soon exhausted. National pride and the distant memory of an imperial past are not strong enough to revive a nation that is in every respect impoverished. Even Boris Yeltsin, the strong leader with loyal cohorts and much of the national army on his side, has floundered in the administrative morass. Opposition from a parliament elected before the coup blocked his attempts to enact rapid change by democratic means.

In the coming days, Yeltsin is expected to announce that he intends to end the months of aimlessness and enact "emergency measures" to bring the market economy storming in. Advance reports say he will free prices to market levels, disband unprofitable collective farms and sell off the land, and declare bankrupt enterprises bankrupt and sell

them to foreigners (if any will have them). This will not be a victory, Yeltsin will have to override his parliament. He will be condemned by his own democratic supporters and by foreigners for succumbing to the "authoritarian tendencies" they always suspected he harboured. Conservatives will cry further lamentations for social justice. Yeltsin may be toppled. Only popular support will save him — the sort of popular support that Gorbachev could never muster.

Even if Yeltsin keeps his job and starts to force a kind of market into being, the prospects are not good. The administrative confusion is now so pervasive, and disregard for authority and legality is so ingrained, that attempts to reimpose order, even order proceeding from sound economic sense, will face cynicism and outright resistance.

What actually happens when a vast and highly centralised state disintegrates? What is it like when an economy breaks down? In the next few weeks and months, Mikhail Gorbachev, Boris Yeltsin and the others must hang on tight, because they — and we — may be about to find out.

A punch-up that hurts health

The real difficulties facing the health service will not be cured by this bout of verbal fisticuffs, says Peter Riddell

William Waldegrave is like a bruised boxer halfway through a fight. Forced onto the defensive early in the contest, he knows he cannot win, but reckons he might just be able to secure a draw on points against Robin Cook, a nimble and confident opponent. Mr Waldegrave comes out punching in every round. That cheers his supporters, who believe in his cause even if they are not sure he is a champion. Unfortunately, he has a habit of tripping up.

The language of boxing may seem strange for an issue like health, but politicians themselves talk in such combative terms. Words like smear, falsehood, retreat and capitulation pepper Monday's Commons debate. Mr Waldegrave is an unlikely pugilist, but party strategists have decided that the only way to turn the debate is by counter-attacking constantly, making speeches, issuing challenges and giving interviews. If you are already fed up with the sight and sound of Mr Waldegrave and Mr Cook exchanging blows, Conservative Central Office is achieving its aim. What the Tories are trying to do is to get everyone bored with the issue now, so that attention can be switched to areas where the government is more strongly placed, such as law and order, defence, the trade unions and economic management.

Some robust debating performances by Mr Waldegrave raised Tory morale, or at least did until he slipped up this week over tax relief on private medical insurance for older people. He has learnt that it is not wise to second-guess the Treasury on tax changes. Many Tory MPs do not believe that Mr Waldegrave should be health secretary — one cabinet colleague said of his appointment 12 months ago: "We are still living with Margaret

Thatcher's late managerial mistakes." But unlike the much derided John Moore three years ago, most Tories at least respect Mr Waldegrave for fighting his corner against what they regard as an unfair opposition attack. On the Labour side, Mr Cook's successful advocacy pushed him into second place in Wednesday's shadow cabinet elections.

I doubt, however, if the government's approach will work over the long term — that is, up to the next election. The public does not trust the Tories over the National Health Service, and over has. Even at the depths of Labour's fortunes in the 1983 election, the party enjoyed a clear lead over the Tories on health. And the gap is now much larger. Nearly half the electorate claims that the main obstacle to voting Conservative is the party's lack of commitment to improving the NHS.

It is no good ministers pointing to the 50 per cent rise in health spending in real terms since 1979. Voters suspect the Tories of banking after greater private provision. In the 1987 election, Mrs Thatcher talked of using private health because she wanted to go to hospital on the day "I want, at the time I want and with the doctor I want". During the health review in 1988-9, her advisers discussed a greater role for the private sector. Even when the government concentrated on improving efficiency within a service funded by the taxpayer, private sector language was used: internal markets, competition, price mechanisms and customers. New hospital trusts have been widely, and mistakenly, seen as opting out of the NHS entirely. The introduction of commercial terminology made the charge of privatisation more likely to stick. It is odd that this word has such unpopular connotations when the public eagerly buy shares — more than three million people have expressed interest in the BT sale — but perhaps voters distinguish between public utilities and services.

Labour's charge that the government is privatising the NHS is largely bogus in the conventional sense of the selling of a public entity. After some deft, though obvious, footwork, Mr Cook redefined the term to mean commercialisation and cutbacks in public provision which tend to persuade people to seek private sector treatment. He has plenty of examples of this, and half the electorate still believes the government wants to privatise the NHS.



A bruising fight: the battle between William Waldegrave (left) and Robin Cook is peppered with insults and abuse

Ministers' megaphone response of denying repeatedly any intention to alter the principle of free and equal access to health care may muddy the debate and cut Labour's lead on the issue, but the health row is not going to disappear. Labour leaders believe they only have to wait for Mr Waldegrave to make more mistakes and for more stories to appear about hospital cutbacks.

A depressing feature of these exchanges is the way they magnify differences, when in practice Tory and Labour policies are not very far apart. Both parties are addressing the same question: how to finance a service which is largely free at the point of use in the face of increasing demands from a growing number of very old people, the increasing costs of

new technology, and rising public expectations. The debate is really about small variations in the rate of growth of the health budget and how to make best use of it. Labour has given an exaggerated impression of what any government might be able to achieve, with talk of tackling underfunding over the lifetime of a parliament. Labour talk of abolishing the market in health care also obscures the party's acceptance of structural changes to direct resources towards efficient providers.

The Conservatives are at least making an honest attempt. More money is being provided, but not enough. Ministers hope that the shift to internal markets, like the managerial reforms of the 1980s, will somehow square this circle. In practice, the government is

having the worst of all worlds since setting up hospital trusts and allowing some general practitioners to control budgets has produced dislocation and suspicion rather than obvious benefits for patients.

But as Mr Waldegrave argued, to little notice, on Monday, "throughout the world, governments of all political persuasions are seeking with greater urgency to match scarce resources with the increasing demand for health care. In Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and New Zealand, the ideas that we are carrying through into practice have been paralleled, or in some cases, imitated, by other governments." As so often in Britain, the raucous sounds of the Westminster boxing ring have drowned out a needed debate on how to finance the welfare state.

...and moreover
ALAN COREN

I experienced a remarkable concatenation yesterday. I had gone to the Italian Driving School in Clerkenwell Road to make an enquiry on a friend's behalf (sensitively refraining from making any on my own, despite burning to know about the teaching of Italian driving, as how to steer with your chin so that you can simultaneously keep the hooter depressed and shake both hands free, one to shake its fist, the other to raise its central finger), and when I came out again, I found myself a bit peckish, so I bought a packet of Smith's potato crisps.

I strolled on, thinking of nothing in particular, when I chanced to notice a blue plaque, high up on a redbrick wall at the corner of Hutton Garden, attesting to the curious fact that Sir Hiram Maxim (1840-1916), inventor of the machine-gun, had lived there.

That is the kind of information which suddenly makes one think of something in particular. While I already knew a bit about the great man — including the tragedy wherein a malicious Fate cruelly snatched him away in June, robbing him by only a few short days of the chance to see his greatest masterpiece, the First Battle of the Somme — I had no idea that this was where he had hung his hat. How tolerant landladies must have been, then! Not to mention the people in the flat downstairs; but, then again, you might think twice, might you not, before banging on the ceiling and

thereby getting on the wrong side of a man who had just been practising at 500 rounds a minute? These and similar wool-gatherings having brought me to the end of the packet of crisps, I looked for a wastebin; and that I could not immediately spot one was what brought on the remarkable concatenation. I put the empty bag back in my pocket, where it remained until I got into the bus on Farringdon Road and dug for change. The bag was now in my hand again, where, by sheer chance, a word leapt off it and into my eye, the way this word, as I may have mentioned before, will. On the top right-hand corner of the packet, this legend ran: "Frank Smith sold Britain's first crisps to the pubs of Cricklewood. The salt-cellar he provided vanished as fast as the crisps. The little blue twist of salt was his ingenious solution."

Well I never. I mean, literally. Twenty years in Cricklewood, and I had never caught whiff nor whisper of our greatest son: for how else was one to describe a man who had invented not only the crisp, but also the little bag of salt to be a help meet for it? This was major genius. It was as if the Earl of Sandwich had come up with the pickled onion. Research was urgently called for. And when, an hour later, I rang Smiths (or as it now is, *cheu fugaces PepsiCo Foods International*), one who still remembers the old days remembered them for me.

He was wakened, it was wanted for issuing the shoot-to-kill orders which led to 200 people being killed as they tried to escape from East Germany to the West.

In 1920, Frank Smith was a young Cricklewood grocer, left to mind the shop while his employer holidayed in France. When the employer returned, he brought with him a wondrous tale of a little French restaurant where he had been served with thinly-sliced fried potatoes. He then got back to doing what employers do, leaving Frank to do what geniuses do. Geniuses have a bit of a think. After which, they remove their apron, politely hand in their notice, pop round to a bank manager whom they have circumspically ensured never went short of a nice hit of gammon even in the darkest days of the recent hostilities, and buy the lease on a rundown Cricklewood garage which the instinct of genius tells them is just the place to begin manufacturing potato crisps.

How could it fail? It did not. The only commercial setback was that as Cricklewood's boozers fell upon Smith's delectable invention, they ungratefully neglected the saltbags he had loaned them. Smith, however, was up to that. Smith took fresh guard. The answer was in the bag.

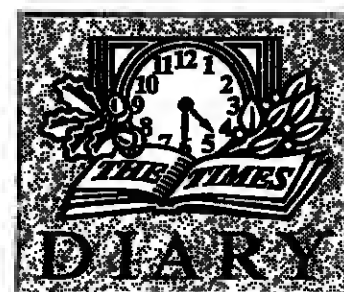
I put the phone down, and dried my eyes, and drove to where the original garage used to be. It is now a B&Q superstore. It trekked its every wall, but there was nothing to show. What an odd world it is that reverses the machine-gun but not the crisp! Surely it is time to offer the honour of a small blue plaque? Preferably one with a twist in it.

Ministerial debriefing

MICHAEL HOWARD, the employment secretary, is the latest cabinet minister to become embroiled in the escalating row between the BBC and the government over allegations of left-wing bias. This week he spent an entire day on the run from a *Panorama* crew making a film about the inner cities, which will be shown early next month. Howard first succeeded in having the crew banned from a Tyneside training and enterprise council, to which he was making an official visit. Only hours before the visit, the BBC received a telephone call to the effect that the crew was not welcome. A few hours later, Howard astonished guests at a lunch hosted by North Tyneside Chamber of Commerce by walking out of the restaurant at the Park Hotel, Tynemouth, in protest at the presence of the same film crew.

While bemused lunchers wondered what on earth had happened to their guest of honour, a furious row went on outside between Howard and Central Office of Information press officers. The embarrassed officials, who had agreed to *Panorama's* attendance, were deputised to tell the BBC reporters that the minister would not return unless they left.

The crew then re-appeared at a press conference in the hotel after the lunch. To the amazement of the assembled local press, Howard again objected to *Panorama's* presence, refusing to take any questions until the cameras had left. They were eventually allowed to stay but only on the condition that the *Panorama* reporter, Jane Corbin, would not ask questions. Quite why Howard should go to such lengths to avoid the cameras remains unclear. His office said



they required "more notice" and the requests had not been properly channelled. But *Panorama* is regarded with almost paranoia in some Tory circles after a series of programmes ministers believe to have been totally biased. Only last month Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, threw his cameras out of a press conference. "The minister did not want microphones up his nose," said a spokesman. Perhaps it is time he developed the taste. There is, after all, an election brewing.

● The Soviet Union is turning to that queen of morality, Dame Barbara Cartland. The author, who this week sent newspapers her own pink-ribboned obituary, setting right "all the untrue and unpleasant things" written about her, is off to Moscow to sell her books. "Everyone wants me because I am moral," she says. "The only problem with the Soviet Union is that when you're offered millions in rubles you count them up and they come to £2.10."

Inflammatory pages
CHANNEL FOUR's new literary programme, *Burning Books*, which allows panelists to toss books they don't like into a fire, has outraged the reading classes. "It should be stopped," says Melvyn Bragg. "It is thoughtless,

tasteless and crass. Only violent tyrannies, such as the Nazis, resort to burning books. And just think about what is happening to Salman Rushdie."

The first victim in the series, which started this week, was a biography of the comedian Dave Allen. Maryn Goff, deputy chairman of the Book Trust, is appalled. "We will be protesting to Channel Four. It's a silly waste when you think that Book Aid is scouring the country for books to send to the Soviet Union."

Channel Four has no such qualms. Waldemar Januszczak, its arts commissioning editor, says that critics should come down

from their "elitist soap boxes". Says Januszczak: "There is too much sitting on the fence. People don't have the guts to say a book isn't worth the paper it's printed on. This is no more than a juke-box jury for books." Quite.

Gracing SAVE
THE Prince of Wales has put his money behind his architectural enthusiasm by donating an undisclosed sum from his personal funds to the campaigning body,

SAVE Britain's Heritage. The gift comes with a message of "long-standing admiration for SAVE's work".

The Prince's support is bound to enliven the architectural debate further, given SAVE's frequently controversial stance. "The very nature and urgency of our campaigning for endangered buildings often brings us into conflict with government bodies and commercial interests," says Marcus Binney, SAVE's president and architectural correspondent of *The Times*. "The Prince's support is an invaluable accolade which will help us enormously in championing a whole range of beautiful buildings."

Bit of a drag
Rudyard Kipling, who wrote "A woman is only a woman, but a good cigar is a smoke," would surely approve. "Cigar tastings" have been launched at a series of dinners at Mosimann's club in Belgravia, at which the food is incidental to the rare Havana puff between courses. Simon Chase, from Hunters & Frankau, the shippers organising the tastings, says: "We have three savoury courses, each designed to cleanse the palate for the cigar which follows. We worked out that three cigars is about the maximum one can meaningfully taste."

According to Chase, just as with fine wines from Bordeaux, there is a complicated gradation of cigars in Cuba. The finest examples, known as Cohiba robustos, are made from only the best leaves grown in a few specific fields, and were originally created by Fidel Castro as a tribute to Che Guevara. Sadly they are considered too rare for the tastings. A puff-and-pass-it-on system was considered, but rejected as unhygienic and best left to smokers of more nefarious substances.

Polishing a legend: Hearst's notoriety lives on. Now his son is cleaning up the press baron's image.

was a man of... an incredibly adventurous individual with a boundless

concede that Hearst's Hollywood friends, notably Holly

weapon in use... battle.

to implement measures. (Reuter)



GOOD NEWS FROM ISRAEL

Much worthy and predictable moaning has accompanied the news that Yitzhak Shamir will attend next week's Madrid conference in person, taking with him only the hardliners and extremists opposed to any territorial concession. The Palestinians are up in arms, the Israeli opposition disconcerted. It has been taken by David Levy, the foreign minister who was expecting to lead the Israeli delegation, as a personal snub, an indication that the prime minister was not serious about seeking peace.

Whatever Mr Shamir's motives, however hardline his position, such reactions are shortsighted. The history of all difficult negotiations — and none is more intractable than the one between Israel and its Arab neighbours — shows that no progress can be made until those who hold real, accountable power sit round the table. With tough decisions to be made, Mr Shamir's presence at the conference is more constructive than his presence fuming, scheming and backtracking back home.

Mr Shamir has respected no feelings in this demonstration of power-play, not even those of the American secretary of state, James Baker. In a calculated assertion of his independence of Washington, Mr Shamir announced his move hours after Mr Baker said that the delegations would be headed by foreign ministers. This tactlessness merits a private American rebuke. But the fact remains that his decision will help the negotiations by reducing the scope for ambiguity.

Mr Shamir's opponents naturally accuse him of sending a message to the world not to expect a breakthrough at Madrid. They call the presence of a Jewish settler from the occupied West Bank a provocation to the Palestinians, who have themselves been forbidden to include delegates from East Jerusalem, and to the Americans who strongly oppose continued settlements. Shimon Peres, the opposition leader, said he was saddened that the delegation would represent only a minority segment of Israeli opinion. The common interpretation in the Israeli press is that Mr Shamir is going to Madrid to stiffen Israel's terms for peace, and to stage an ostentatious walk-out if the Palestinians say they represent the Palestine

Liberation Organisation. The answer to these objections cannot be repeated too often. The odds are already against this peace initiative getting anywhere. The talks have not yet begun. After 43 years, all sides are playing for high stakes. It is inevitable that Mr Shamir, who is leading his country from one extreme of the political spectrum, would attempt to bolster his exposed political position and reassure his allies on the right. The odds on success are marginally better with Mr Shamir in Madrid than with Mr Levy there.

The Arabs must meet this by more than their usual shadow-boxing. In Damascus a conference of foreign ministers has just repeated demands for an immediate halt to the settlements, a withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory, including Jerusalem, and fulfilment of the national rights of the Palestinians. These demands are in keeping with Security Council resolutions, but look very like preconditions. The Arabs know these terms are unacceptable to Israel.

The Americans are now trying to persuade other leaders, including President Mubarak, to attend. Better still would be the presence of President Assad. Deals are worth far more if made by the toughest opponents of concessions. Any agreement reached only by "men of good will", that stereotype so often invoked by the West and so alien to the Middle East, is open to sabotage by its opponents: particularly in Israel where opponents are free to oppose. If Mr Shamir can be persuaded to agree terms for Israel's future security, his government should be better placed to neutralise the inevitable opposition of settler factions.

By going to Madrid in person, Mr Shamir has cut off a line of retreat. He cannot easily torpedo the talks and return home in glory: the anger in Washington and uproar at home would leave him dangerously exposed. Had Mr Levy gone to Madrid while Mr Shamir stayed at home, any deal he brought back could have been disowned, as Mr Shamir undercut earlier agreements between Mr Levy and Mr Baker. By taking the responsibility into his own hands, Mr Shamir has issued a challenge to the Arabs to send their own leaders to Madrid. They should do so.

DELETING EXPLETIVES

Swearing is usually distasteful and often downright offensive. It is also commoner in public than it used to be. Television is the most prominent of the conduits which transmit bad language from the gutter to the hearth, whence it insinuates itself into the vocabularies of children and the public generally. Does this matter and if so what can be done about it?

A report published yesterday from the Broadcasting Standards Council, *A Matter of Manners?*, shows that it does matter, in the case of most people matters very much. A certain dulling of once automatic outrage may have taken place over the past generation. Yet familiarity with expletives has not dulled public contempt for them. Despite the frequency with which viewers are bombarded with bad language, public reaction continues to be stronger to this aspect of obscenity than to scenes of sex or violence which exercise broadcasters and critics alike.

The BSC report suggests that people are more tolerant of swearwords in genres such as documentaries than in others such as comedies. They are well aware that the same swearword might be innocuous if used in one sense but repulsive if used in another. They are conscious of the irritation, often fury, which blasphemy causes to members of religious groups. Few members of the sample want strong expletives banned from the screen; but most want broadcasters to be more sensitive to context and to the feelings and age of their audiences.

Blame for this lies not with the BSC. It is an advisory quango with the quaint and slightly absurd remit to say "not too much and then not too little" to the media. Nor does blame lie with those old Aunt Sallies, modern society or "left-wing producers". Responsibility lies with the

BBC governors, the Independent Television Commission, and the bosses of independent television companies.

They are beneficiaries of what, in the case of the franchise-holders, amounts to an oligopoly over an important area of the media. Predominantly middle-aged themselves, they can be at odds with the prevailing culture within their organisations and nervous of seeming out of touch with younger and more radical producers. They may also fear charges of censorship that might alienate younger audiences, especially audiences for the alternative comedy and variety shows that can contain material offensive to older viewers.

The balance is for television chiefs to make, but to make with consideration for all groups of viewers. The chiefs occasionally require courage to resist censorship from outside, particularly from government. But they also need courage to impose self-censorship. Lord Rees-Mogg's report makes sensible suggestions. He is eager to make television's adversarial culture more aware that different age groups react differently to obscenity and blasphemy. He wants a wider use of warnings and labelling before possibly offensive programmes are broadcast, and a stricter use of the 9pm watershed. It is the sudden, unexpected character of obscenity that causes particular distress.

Broadcasters should not need Lord Rees-Mogg to make these suggestions. Nothing is more dangerous than to permit others to exercise the censor's role, relieving institutional leaders from doing it themselves. A gradual, permissive change of sensibility in matters of language there may be. But those who deliberately set out to shock should respond to public concern; not wait for others to impose restrictions on them.

TYRANNY OF EXAMS

A brief history of time, in one paragraph. Early man recorded the passing of the years by plotting the movements of the sun and the stars through the heavens. The medieval world swayed to the rhythms of the seasons and the festivals of the Church, while the era of industrialisation has shuddered along to the staccato of technology. Late 20th-century man has discovered a new coffee spoon with which to measure out his life: exams. From cradle to grave, tests and assessments are the benchmarks of modern times. No longer simply a means to an end, certificates and professional qualifications position human beings in the space-time continuum. You are what you pass.

Hence the uncertainty which currently surrounds the annual Eton-Harrow cricket match. The Marylebone Cricket Club, which runs Lord's, has been unable to set a date with the schools for the fixture, played at Lord's since 1805. The source of the confusion is the timetable for next year's public examinations, which has drastically restricted the number of days available for uninterrupted play. It seems that the match will now take place off the hallowed ground, probably at one of the schools. A ritual is about to slip off the social calendar.

The decline of a single social event will occasion few sleepless nights and much tedious nostalgia. Dr Eric Anderson, the Head Master of Eton, has apparently told Downing Street that something should be done about this threat to an aspect of the

prime minister's favourite game. He will presumably be told that public schools should toe the administrative line with everybody else. Academic qualifications should count for more than tradition, even at Eton and Harrow. The schools should pull themselves together and into the 20th century.

The usefulness of exams cannot be denied. Testing is the essence of a structured education, and provides the information needed to monitor the performance of pupil and school. The prospect of written tests can galvanise the indolent and inspire the able.

But is there no case for the Eton and Harrow match? Exams are no longer merely a necessary evil, they are totems of a society obsessed with league tables, consumer information and a specious "objectivity". The spirit of the age is embodied in the new national testing programme: children pick up the exam neurosis at the age of seven. A profusion of published information ensures that their parents join the torment. More than ever will jumping through hoops be required to prove aptitude or excellence.

The cost of this relentless quality control is a loss of character, a dispiriting homogenisation of lifestyles. Already, a grey wave sweeps the land, washing away pleasurable oddities like this fixture. In its wake comes the first glimpse of citizen's charter Britain, a land fit for today's heroes, for examinees. What war was ever won on the playing fields of GCE?

Delay in joining 'civvy street'

From the General Manager of the Scottish Ambulance Service

Sir, Last week I went through over 170 applications for a senior post in this organisation. Over 25 per cent were from officers serving in the forces. I contacted several to see when they might be available to take up the post were they to be selected for it.

It became clear that, particularly in the army, the system whereby long-serving officers can obtain their premature release remains one designed almost entirely for the benefit of the service and not for the individual who, having given years of service to the Crown and now faced with large-scale reductions in the forces, is making an attempt to get a good civilian job in a competitive market.

At a time when one would expect that an application to leave the services would almost be welcomed by them, officers are being disadvantaged by uncertainty as to when they might be released. Redundancy plans seem to take little account of the fact that virtually no employer can afford to wait for more than three months for someone to fill an important vacancy.

Those responsible should realise that, for the time being at least, the needs of the serviceman and woman must come first. If necessary, gaps in the ranks must be accepted to allow those who want to leave a quicker opportunity of doing so.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW FREEMANTLE,
General Manager,
Scottish Ambulance Service,
Tipperrin Road,
Edinburgh 10,
October 22.

EC intervention

From Mr A. C. Geddes

Sir, The government's reaction to the EC Environment Commissioner's demand that the UK comply with Community law with regard to disputed construction projects (reports, October 19, 22) is either disingenuous or indicative of a worrying ignorance of EC law which sadly is not confined to the environmental sector.

Signor Ripa di Meana's intervention has got nothing to do with an "unwarranted intrusion into Britain's national affairs" or "a breach of the principle of subsidiarity" as Mr Major seems to think.

It is the commissioner's duty under the EC treaty to ensure that Community law, and in particular the directive which requires that an environmental impact assessment is carried out before certain large-scale projects are authorised, is obeyed. One of the purposes behind that directive, to which all the member states agree, is to give the public access to information and have their views taken into account.

In the light of this apparent prevailing ignorance it may astonish the government to know that it has also agreed to another directive, which will be in force in December this year, which will enable any contractor in another member state who considers himself unfairly discriminated against in the grant of certain large government or local authority contracts to complain to his national court and to obtain an interim injunction, which the courts here must enforce, to prevent the project from continuing until the foreign court has considered the matter.

When that happens I suppose we can safely assume an outbreak of mass apoplexy among MPs. Yours faithfully,
A. C. GEDDES
(2 Essex Court European Law Group),
2 Essex Court,
Temple, EC4,
October 23.

Soviet orphans

From Baroness Cox

Sir, Professor John Davis suggests (letter, October 15) that I and my colleagues, Dr Katherine Adler, have "condemned" health-care workers in St Petersburg in our recent report (details, September 27) concerning the treatment of Soviet orphans; in fact, we go out of our way to commend the devotion of many of those caring for these children.

What we did find was that many of these workers were being influenced by a policy which wrongly labelled children as mentally-handicapped (using the diagnosis of "oligophrenic" — not known in Western medicine). Once labelled in this way, their whole lives are restricted and they cannot obtain a full education, find normal employment or vote. Our tests showed that many of these children were normal and therefore their lives are stunted in ways which raise serious human rights issues.

We believe this to be a serious problem which needs further investigation. Any help that we could give therefore will involve both direct practical assistance to alleviate immediate problems and an examination of the underlying policies which have led to the "trajectory of despair" described in our report. Copies of this report will shortly be available from Christian Solidarity International.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE COX,
House of Lords,
October 22.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Wider aspects of pensioners' plight

From Mr Denys Wilson

Sir, In your leader, "Pension priorities" (October 22), you say Mr Newtson went some way to recognise the two classes of pensioners, but surely there is another — those who receive only partial earnings-related pensions or even none at all.

Conservative and Labour parties have over the years played political football with pensions, the result being that those relying on state pensions are more poorly paid than pensioners in many other "prosperous" countries.

The government has ensured, by relating increases in the rate of inflation instead of average wages, that such pensioners will not be part of any future prosperity.

Yours truly,
DENYS WILSON,
5 Aylsh Road, Talbot Woods,
Bournemouth, Dorset,
October 22.

From the Secretary of State for Social Security

Sir, A brief comment on your thoughtful editorial, "Pension priorities", in which you referred to my proposals to help less well-off older pensioners as "small beer, but ... a pointer in the right direction".

This is in fact the third year running in which real extra money has gone to less well-off pensioners. This latest increase will take the total to some £350 million over that period. Hardly, I think, "small beer".

Yours sincerely,
TONY NEWTON,
Department of Social Security,
Richmond House,
79 Whitehall, SW1.

From Mr E. Castleton

Sir, There is another class — one which you, like the government, ignore. I refer to the elderly people who, having been born too soon, are living on a small fixed occupational pension with no State (state earnings-related pension scheme) but only the standard state benefit.

They own a house, by now mortgage-free but still requiring maintenance, and their savings, generally invested in building soci-

eties, have not accrued sufficiently to cope with vastly increased maintenance costs.

These are the people who have so often attempted to cope by using investment-linked home income schemes and now so often face ruin. Their only error seems to have been to try to avoid falling into your second, poorer, class of pensioner and consequent state support.

There seems to be an inclination to brush under the carpet the problems of this forgotten (or ignored) class until the passage of years and death wipes them out.

Yours,
E. CASTLETON,
138 Main Road,
Long Hanborough,
Witney, Oxfordshire,
October 22.

From Dr John Doughty

Sir, There are many who, having saved diligently from low pay in unenviable employment during their working lives, have managed to accrue a moderate amount of capital. If in private residential accommodation their savings are eroded and when the government raises the level of income support to other state-aided residents they see their charges raised by the proprietors. The level of income support determines the "going rate" for private paying residents in care homes that take both private and state-assisted residents.

Moreover, it is not clear that low inflation now protects the savings of this class as your leader states. As interest rates decline the increasing standard weekly fees charged by the home eat more quickly into their capital.

Could it be that the professional advisers of the wealthy find a more lucrative field today in advising their clients how to dispose of most of their capital beneficially, thereby making them entitled to income support when the time comes to enter a residential care home?

Yours,
JOHN DOUGHTY,
17 Pelican Mead,
Ringwood, Hampshire.

BA's engines

From Mr Bryan C. McGee

Sir, Not surprisingly, Lord King (letter, October 18) can provide a commercial justification for British Airways' decision to order engines from General Electric of the United States for their new fleet of Boeing 777 aircraft. The point regarding duty to shareholders is often a rather simplistic one. Messrs Marks & Spencer could no doubt source most of their products from abroad for the short-term gain of their shareholders, but an impoverished customer base will eventually have the reverse effect.

The point at issue really is one of whether the nation can afford such decisions being taken in semi-isolation. The UK engineering industry is currently almost on its knees and Rolls-Royce and its pyramid of suppliers represents one

of the few areas where we still have technology and products at the leading edge. However, it is unlikely Rolls-Royce Plc has the resources to remain there without an effective partnership such as it has enjoyed for so long with British Airways.

General Electric, with its much greater resources, was able to pay a handsome price for the South Wales engine overhaul centre to achieve a double coup. First, to achieve the key British Airways order and secondly, to drive a Trojan horse right into the Rolls-Royce heartland. The Trent has been developed from a well proven design, whereas the GE 90 is an all-new engine to be installed in the 777, the first commercial aircraft from Boeing with "fly by wire" controls.

Yours faithfully,
B. C. MCGEE,
Blackbrook House, Blackbrook,
Chapel en le Frith, Derbyshire.

Right voice for London

From Mr Damian Green

Sir, Sir Philip Goodhart (letter, October 19) rightly points out that calls for an elected city-wide mayor in London merely evade the issue that any important London problem is also an important national problem, and that therefore the decisions will lie with ministers. In addition, the experience of other countries with powerful elected mayors is not universally favourable.

But while any suggestion for elected authorities, or even a mayor with tightly-defined powers, gives rise to the dangers of returning to the elephantine bureaucracy and dubious practices of the GLC, London's own democratic deficit needs to be addressed.

Sir Philip suggests a Commons select committee. Why not go one

step further and institute a grand committee of all London MPs? It would be unarguably representative. It would certainly contain the experience to scrutinise ministerial decisions, and if it did speak with one voice on a specific policy it would carry enormous weight.

The people of London do not need more government. They need to know, in the words of your own leading article (October 9), that they have an "authentic voice" which will be heard with respect in Whitehall. Their MPs are in the best position to provide that voice.

Yours sincerely,
DAMIAN GREEN (Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate, Brent East),
Brent East Conservative Association,
110 Walm Lane, NW2,
October 21.

From Professor Emeritus Thomas Stapleton

Sir, Since October 1990 I have visited so-called "children's houses" for orphans in Georgia, Armenia, Latvia and Lithuania. I was also in St Petersburg at the time of the visit by Baroness Cox and Dr Adler, and I gave a seminar in the children's department of the Medical Military Academy there which was attended by the director of one of the "children's houses" in that city.

Everywhere I found a strong desire on the part of the staff of these institutions to improve the situation. It seemed to me that the disadvantages of the Soviet system arise more from bureaucratic procedures than from any ill will or abuse of psychiatry: the mother has to give her permission before a child can be adopted, for example, and siblings have to be adopted into the same family.

Some apparently sensible rules may not always be sensible in the local situation. Could not individual doctors and administrators be invited here from the Soviet Union, to examine our adoption procedures and to see how these could be applied in the various republics?

Meanwhile, I take leave to doubt whether Soviet observations on Cleveland, Rochdale or the Orkneys, reported in the Soviet press, would be regarded here as particularly helpful.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
THOMAS STAPLETON,
The Foundry Cottage, Lane End,
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire,
October 15.

Bad behaviour in top-level rugby

From Mr David M. Smith

Sir, Mr Goss correctly highlights (letter, October 23) the responsibilities of Russ Thomas, chairman of the Rugby World Cup, and all those in authority to maintain certain standards of conduct and discipline on and off the rugby field.

It is becoming increasingly frustrating for those of us involved at a junior level in witness the growing gap between grass-roots rugby and the game at a senior level.

The interpretation, or indeed disregard, of some of the laws at international level makes for a totally different game. Witness Mr David Bishop's "non-refereeing" of the line-out, in Paris last Saturday, when on a number of occasions he seemed to "give up and just ignore numerous simultaneous offences — on both sides — and let play continue".

Violence on the field is treated almost as a fact of life at this level whereas we have been instructed in form a disciplinary committee to sanction players guilty of misconduct, whether or not the referee has spotted the infringement. Will the many players who were responsible for such behaviour on Saturday be disciplined by their respective home unions?

And now we have gone one step further with alleged verbal and possibly physical violence against the referee after the game. Perhaps I should take a leaf out of Daniel Dubroca's book and stop buying our referees a pint on a Saturday afternoon, win or lose. I think not, because some of us still have standards and those who are losing them should get out of the game.

Mr Thomas should be the first and we should start looking for a new fifth nation for next season's championship. Yours faithfully,
DAVID M. SMITH
(Captain, Horsham RUFC),
6 West Parade,
Horsham,
West Sussex,
October 23.

Sports letters, page 34

Lawyers' fees

From the Secretary-General of the Law Society

Sir, Every year the Law Society in its annual statistical report publishes details of the gross fee receipts of solicitors' firms in the previous year, and every year someone misinterprets these figures, assuming that gross fee levels are the same as net.

Your legal affairs correspondent gets this right (report, October 15) but the writer of your leading article ("South-East shake-out", October 18) suggested that rises in gross fees were tantamount to solicitors "awarding themselves a pay rise". The fact is that as overhead costs are rising faster than fee receipts, solicitors are experiencing cuts rather than increases in net income.

Yours sincerely,
J. W. HAYES,
Secretary-General,
The Law Society,
113 Chancery Lane, WC2,
October 21.

Religious tolerance

From Dr Sheridan Gilley

Sir, Clifford Longley's perceptive article (October 19) on Christian proselytism among Jews and members of other faiths has its implications for the confusion in some liberal minds between agreement and tolerance.

Tolerance involves the opposite of agreement or indifference, as one can be said only to tolerate something with which one disagrees; and the more one disagrees the profounder the tolerance one may be called upon to show.

Yours faithfully,
SHERIDAN GILLEY,
University of Durham,
Department of Theology,
Abbey House,
Palace Green,
Durham,
October 21.

Touch of silk

From Professor William Ballamyne

Sir, I read your report (October 15) that rail fares are in go up by almost twice the rate of inflation as I sat on the new "crack" 9am electric service from Edinburgh to King's Cross. In front of me was a copy of BR's free magazine, *InterCity*.

From the item entitled "First Class News" I extract the following: "... the strategy of InterCity's biggest ever advertising campaign — to wake people up to the combination of quality, short journey times and frequency that puts InterCity among the world leaders."

... the new style black silk campaign is by advertising agency Saatchi and Saatchi who won the contract after a competitive tender.

... for the filming a whole train had to be cloaked in black silk, and a 10-yard-long model of a train built in the famous Pinewood studios.

There is a picture of the train covered in silk, with the caption "it took 2,000 square yards of silk to cover the train". After leaving the train, which was late on arrival, I ascertained that an average price for black silk is £12 per square yard. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
WILLIAM BALLAMYNE,
154 Clifford's Inn,
Fetter Lane, EC4,
October 15.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

**WEEKEND
MONEY
TOMORROW**

PROFILE

Chris Wright, chairman of Chrysalis, the record, video and television production firm, remains shy although he has been in the entertainment industry since the age of 14. He talks to Carol Leonard

FIXED TERMS

When is a guarantee worth less than it appears? As interest rates fall and savers switch accounts for a higher return, Sara McConnell looks at fixed-term bonds

TAX RELIEF

Tax reliefs worth billions of pounds a year come under the scrutiny of Lindsay Cook. State money is available to cut the cost of many investments

Watered down

Strong criticism of the government's training programme, by the Institute of Personnel Management, was significantly watered down before the institute produced its training white paper.

IPM conference, page 26

£70m NT sale

National Transcommunications, the transmission and engineering business of the independent broadcasting sector, has been sold by the government for £70 million to a new company backed by Mercury Asset Management and chaired by Arthur Walsb, former chairman and chief executive of STC. The price is short of the £100 million-plus the business had been hoped to fetch.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7110 (+0.0040)
German mark 2.9087 (-0.0017)
Exchange index 90.3 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1936.6 (-29.5)
FT-SE 100 2528.3 (-32.8)
New York Dow Jones 3020.57 (-20.35)
Tokyo Nikkei Avege 24949.26 (+149.32)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISERS:
Softhysa 675p (+12p)
Eurochem 310p (+10p)
Hickling Petroleum 103p (+18p)
Tobacco & Britain 518p (+10p)
FALLS:
Commercial Union 463p (-10p)
Unilever 755p (-19p)
Tomlinson 386p (-13p)
Royal 305p (-17p)
Greycourt 121p (-18p)
Invergordon Dist 264p (-11p)
Highland Dist 289p (-20p)
Bass 951p (-22p)
Card Group 581p (-24p)
Tilbury Group 610p (-10p)
RMC Group 522p (-10p)
Berkeley Group 267p (-10p)
Attwoods 129p (-45p)
Cadbury-Schweppes 405p (-14p)
Northern Foods 548p (-14p)
United Biscuits 368p (-10p)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10½%
3-month Interbank 10½-10¾%
3-month eligible bills 10½-10¾%
US: Prime Rate 8%
Federal Funds 5½%
3-month Treasury Bills 4.99-4.97%
30-year bonds 100½-100¾%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£: \$1.7110
£: DM1.9582
£: SfrF1.4880
£: FF5.8374
£: Yen131.10
£: Index 90.3
ECU 10.70450 SDH 80.79456
£: ECU1.42053 SDH 1.25856
London forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$359.80 PM \$361.00
close \$361.10-361.50 (2210.90-211.40)
New York:
Comex \$363.55-364.05

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Nov) \$22.10 bid (\$22.20)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 134.6 September (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Rising confidence backs cabinet claims

End to recession in sight says chamber survey

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government received strong support for its claims of an economic recovery yesterday. An industrial survey from the Association of British Chambers of Commerce shows a large rise in business confidence and indicates that the recession is coming to an end. The results of the survey will be published next week. This is also expected to report an improvement in business confidence.

The Treasury welcomed the findings of the survey, but struck a note of caution about the scale of the improvement in confidence being reported by local chambers. Treasury officials also noted that the still relatively new ABCC survey did not yet have the economic track record of the CBI's industrial trends survey, which will be published next week. This is also expected to report an improvement in business confidence.

The surge in confidence recorded by the chambers is significant because, of the large-scale business surveys, the chambers' survey has been among the most consistently

pessimistic. But chambers' officials acknowledged yesterday that the statistical skewing of the survey towards medium and smaller businesses could mean that the relatively optimistic picture it was painting might not reflect fully the harder circumstances still being faced by large industrial companies, such as those in construction.

Even so, Miles Middleton, the ABCC president, said: "There is an enormous increase in confidence - everywhere businesses are confident about their future. We are still in the recession, but we are coming out of it."

The ABCC survey of 7,636 companies, 4,340 in the service sector and 3,296 in manufacturing, is the sixth in a row from the chambers showing that British industry is in recession, but continues the improvement in economic performance registered in the survey covering the previous quarter. The rate of decline in domestic activity has slowed significantly, and in some regions is starting to grow.

A "more benign economic climate", falling interest rates and a downward movement in inflation have led to a significant

improvement in confidence over the three months to end-September.

Confidence among manufacturers has more than doubled since the last ABCC survey. The balance of manufacturers - those seeing an improvement set against those still seeing a decline - confident about improving turnover rose from 20 to 47 per cent. Confidence about improved profitability rose from 3 to 29 per cent.

Similar marked increases in confidence were also recorded among companies in the service sector, with optimism about turnover rising from 26 to 42 per cent, and in profitability from 8 to 29 per cent. Manufacturing confidence is highest in Yorkshire, and in Wales in the service sector, with manufacturing confidence leaping in London from 9 to 57 per cent.

Improved confidence has yet, however, to feed through into better home orders, which are still declining, though less sharply. Manufacturing balances on orders are up from minus 26 to minus 22 per cent, and in services from minus 17 to minus 12 per cent. But the improvement is regionally patchy, with orders in Scotland, the Northwest and Yorkshire worsening.

Chambers' economists suggested yesterday that the patchy picture of home orders and the improving performance of manufacturing exporters meant that any recovery was likely to be export-led.

Investment plans are being revised downwards by fewer companies now than in the second quarter, but employment levels are not only continuing to fall rapidly but look set to carry on doing so.

Regionally, the ABCC said there was something of an East-West divide, with the Northeast, East Anglia and the East Midlands firing better than western regions. London, the northern home counties and the West Midlands are continuing to bear the brunt of the recession.



"Enormous increase in confidence": Miles Middleton



Target of speculation: Sir Denys Henderson, chairman of ICI, whose shares tumbled

Hanson sale rumour hits ICI

By MARTIN WALLER

SHARES in ICI tumbled 50p at one stage yesterday as the stock market was swept by rumours that Hanson had sold its 2.8 per cent stake. The rumour was subsequently held to be without truth, but ICI still ended 39p lower at £12.48.

There were suspicions that the fall marked the second bear raid in as many days, following a similar sharp decline in the shares of Associated British Foods on Wednesday on whispers that were also without foundation. Hanson has a policy of not commenting on market rumour, but dealers were convinced that the shares had not been sold. Fewer than a

million shares went through the market yesterday. Hanson's holding is 20 million.

Lord Hanson took the stake at £11.67 in May, prompting suggestions that he might make a full bid. The market has since been swept with speculation that the industrial conglomerate may decide to walk away and take profits.

The rumours that the shares had been placed started around lunchtime, and the shares went into an immediate decline.

Dealers said the shares' failure to recover reflected the fragile nature of the equity markets. The FT-SE 100 index yesterday dropped an additional 32.8 points to

2,528.3, with the shares of many blue chip companies falling.

Brokers said it was the perfect market for a bear raid. The account is coming to an end, dealers are nervous about prospects for two big rights issues from British Aerospace and Asda, while Wall Street is also showing a decline.

The rumours that Hanson was selling out were embellished by suggestions that Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, had put out a sell note on ICI. But BZW said a paper sent out to clients this week was a standard note and did not indicate a downgrading.

Comment, page 25

Attwoods in £80m cash call to reduce gearing

By MARTIN BARROW

ATTWOODS, the waste management group, has asked shareholders to waive Laidlaw's obligation to make a full bid for the company should its shareholding rise above 30 per cent following yesterday's deeply discounted £80 million rights issue.

Laidlaw, the Canadian transport group, has agreed to subscribe for its full entitlement in respect of its 29 per cent shareholding and to sub-underwrite a further 33 per cent of the issue, a move designed to counter widespread institutional opposition to the cash call.

As a result, Laidlaw's shareholding could rise to 43.2 per cent, and under existing takeover rules the company would be obliged to make an offer for the rest of the shares.

However, an application has been made to the takeover panel to waive this obligation, subject to shareholders' approval. Such a move would also give Laidlaw the authority to increase its shareholding by up to 2 percentage points a year without making a general offer to other shareholders. Laidlaw will receive £458,000 in respect of its sub-underwriting commission of 1.75 per cent.

Attwoods is offering nine new shares for every 25 held at 100p a share, raising funds to reduce gearing and repay short-term borrowings as a prelude to refinancing talks with its main bankers. Existing shares, which peaked at 25p in April, slumped from 17p to 12p after returning from suspension.

Ken Foreman, chairman, said gearing would fall from 86 per cent to 19 per cent after the issue. The company, which has not been adverse to issuing shares to fund acquisitions, has promised to curtail expansion and said it would not issue further shares without shareholder approval. The company also confirmed the resignation of Michael Ashcroft, the chairman of ADT, and Fred Edwards, as directors.

Attwoods announced profits up 35 per cent to £38.7 million for the year to the end of July, with earnings up 4 per cent to 13.04p a share. A final dividend of 3.25p increases the payment from 4.75p to 5p.

Tempos, page 24

Hawker attacks BTR accounting policies

By COLIN CAMPBELL

HAWKER Siddeley, defending itself against a £1.5 billion share/cash bid from BTR, yesterday attacked BTR's acquisition accounting policies, saying they have bolstered its financial record and that the company's accounting practices have been changed "to convenient effect".

Hawker Siddeley urges its shareholders not to bail BTR out of its problems and says that BTR's management tactics are wrong for Hawker Siddeley, adding that shareholders should reject BTR's bid.

BTR replied that Hawker Siddeley's document was "a weak effort to distract shareholders from a poor defence

Morton rejects TML round-table scheme

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR Alastair Morton, the chief executive of Euronunnel, yesterday rejected proposals for a round-table meeting under an independent chairman to break the deadlock over cost overruns between the Channel tunnel developer and its contractor, Transmanche Link.

Peter Drew, chairman of Taylor Woodrow, one of the ten contractors operating under the TML umbrella, put the idea to Sir Alastair in a letter made public yesterday.

Mr Drew's suggestion came in the wake of a pledge from Peter Costain, of the Costain group, another TML partner, that the contractors would not walk away from the project. In a letter to Mr Drew, however, Sir Alastair insisted that detailed negotiations over an additional £810 million claimed by the contractors for fixed equipment to the tunnel must take place through existing channels. Eurotunnel disputes the form of the claim and says most of it has not been substantiated.

However, Sir Alastair said he was heartened by remarks from TML members indicating their desire to "negotiate a way forward." He added: "You do not need an escort to come in for a chat, Peter."

The letters appear to confirm signs of a willingness to talk constructively among both parties after weeks of intensifying hostility.

Battle lines drawn at Aberfoyle

By JON ASHWORTH

THE City of London can rarely have seen anything like it - a cast of characters including a Ghanaian millionaire, a new recruit to the Hanson board, and a man who was once jailed for attacking the home of a synagogue official with a hand grenade.

A new television soap opera? Tom Stoppard at his best? Not a bit of it. The scene was the Chartered Insurance Institute, where shareholders in Aberfoyle, the trading group that operates in Zimbabwe, gathered yesterday to decide the company's future.

A group of dissident shareholders hoped to unseat the board and revive the company's flagging fortunes. The rebels had the backing of Kojo Owusu-Nyankiekyi, a former Ghanaian dentist, whose company, Crescent Africa, has



Hardy: battle experience

a 26 per cent stake in Aberfoyle. Among the battle-weary directors who took their seats facing the worried investors was David Hardy, chairman of the Docklands Development Corporation and newly elected member of the Hanson board. Mr Hardy had the worldly air of someone who had seen it all before. Next to the takeover battle for

Globe Investment Trust, of which he was chairman until the Coal Board won the day, this was a mere tiff.

Barry Trowbridge, the rebel leader, who once ran a waste management company, was ready for battle. Aberfoyle was going nowhere fast. The results were appalling. The Mwenzi project, set up in 1985 to produce palm oil, was "bleeding the company dry". Mr Trowbridge had the solution. Bring in a new board and undertake a financial review. Short-term finance had been arranged and two companies were keen to inject new capital.

The sparks began to fly. Where were the funds? Who was behind the companies? A man sporting tinted sunglasses and wearing a well-cut suit joined the attack. He and his companies, he said, spoke for 3 per cent of Aberfoyle shares.

He thought the board should remain. The directors had found a valuable ally in Nicholas van Hoogstraten, the property developer who was jailed for four years in 1967 after the grenade attack.

Mr van Hoogstraten, who lives in a £4.5 million mansion in Sussex, was the subject of an ITV World in Action documentary over harassment of tenants. His worth is estimated at £40 million. His Zimbabwe interests include a holding in Willoughby Consolidated, a goldmine and cattle company.

The dissidents had a letter of support from Joshua Nkomo, the Zimbabwean vice-president. "People who are familiar with Zimbabwe will know the value of that," said Mr van Hoogstraten.

Both sides claimed victory, for now. Shareholders must await the next instalment.

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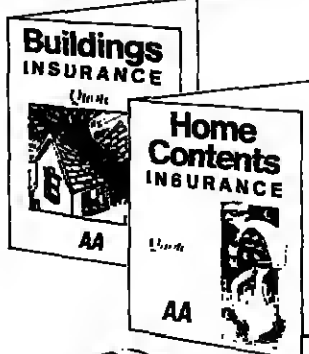
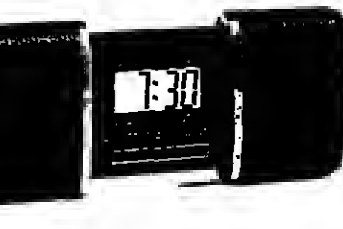
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US job and order figures undermine hopes for recovery

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE fragility of the recovery in America was underlined by official figures that showed a sharp rise in claims for unemployment benefit and another drop in orders to industry for higher priced durable goods.

The disappointing data reinforced the picture of weak and patchy recovery painted by the Federal Reserve's regional banks on Wednesday in the latest regional survey.

Wall Street economists saw the fall in durable goods undermining the widespread view that manufacturing was leading the economy out of recession and increasing the likelihood of an early cut in American interest rates.

The Bush administration, which faces an election next year, has been pressing for lower interest to ensure that the recovery does not start to falter and to boost the president's poor ratings for his handling of the economy.

The economics team at Chase Investment Bank said

the Fed survey showed a "fairly gloomy picture of an economy struggling out of recession, with confidence remaining very low".

Reports of a slowdown in manufacturing in some regions has reawakened fears that the economy could stall, instead of maintaining its slow climb.

The American motor industry has reported a 17.6 per cent slump in sales this month, raising the spectre of production having to be reined back again soon, dragging allied industry with it.

News of the 3.2 per cent fall in durable goods orders in September, after a revised drop of 4.1 per cent in August, plus a 29,000 jump in jobless claims in the week to October 12, pushed the dollar half a penny lower, amid growing market expectation of the Fed easing credit.

The August fall in durable goods was initially given as 3.9 per cent.

A move to lower American

rates, possibly after the next labour market figures, could encourage a cut in the Japanese discount rate, despite the resistance of Yasushi Mieno, governor of the Bank of Japan.

The fall in orders was partly attributed to a large decline in demand for defence equipment, aircraft and transportation goods. But the underlying picture has provoked concern that this widely-used gauge of economic health is starting to display worrying signs of a downturn in demand in the months ahead.

Excluding the volatile defence sector, durable goods orders rose 1.1 per cent last month, a sharp slowdown from the encouraging 5.6 per cent rise seen in August.

France and several other creditors of indebted Third World countries may back British proposals to forgive much of the debt owed by 20 of the poorest countries, senior British government officials said.

They said the so-called Trinidad terms for debt relief received an excellent hearing at a meeting of the Paris Club of creditor nations in Paris on Wednesday.

Last week, John Major said Britain was ready to act unilaterally and write off up to \$775 million in debt, owed primarily by Zambia, Tanzania and Guyana, if it did not win backing from the Paris Club.

But officials said yesterday that they did not think unilateral action would be necessary.

"That won't happen. We have enough people signing up to be sure it won't be us alone," a senior official said.

Net receipts of British building societies rose to £265 million last month from £188 million in August.

The continuing low rate of savings was due to falling interest rates and the second call on shareholders in the electricity distribution companies, the Building Societies Association said.

Gross mortgage advances, at £3.5 billion, were nearly 10 per cent lower than in August but were £200 million higher than the previous September. Net new commitments increased to £3.4 billion from £3.3 billion in August.



Fundraiser: Madderell will promote share ownership

Ex-Tootal chief to head shares drive

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

GEOFFREY Madderell, the former chief executive of Tootal, has been appointed chief executive of the body created to promote wider share ownership.

Mr Madderell has pledged to develop revenue-earning businesses for the new organisation to secure its long-term financial stability.

He said: "We are looking to create a wider shareholder base in this country instead of the 60 or so fund managers who presently control industry."

One of his first tasks will be to decide on a name for the group, which is being developed under the working title of the Share Ownership Movement and is designed to succeed and financially improve on the wider Share Ownership Council next year.

The movement is being backed by the Confederation of British Industry, the government and the London Stock Exchange, which have provided £3 million towards the first three years of operation.

The group will also take over the Stock Exchange's investor research and education unit.

Sir John Harvey-Jones, the former chairman of ICI, and Sir Peter Thompson, the former chairman of NCF, have already agreed to be the movement's president and chairman respectively. Mr Madderell said he would try to earn revenue by advising companies on employee share ownership schemes and individuals on share ownership.

He said: "We want to develop a sort of RAC club for the private investor."

British Steel prices set to rise

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Steel is to raise prices for flat-rolled products, accounting for almost half its output, by 5 per cent from January 1 next year.

The company is following the lead of Usinor-Sacilor, the French group, in an effort to reverse two years of decline, during which UK market prices for hot-rolled strip, a key product, are reckoned to have fallen by 28 per cent to £180 a tonne.

Increases in prices for flat-rolled products will have a knock-on effect on costs throughout British industry. Manufacturers will strenuously resist reductions in the rebates they have enjoyed for the past two years. But the combined might of British Steel and Usinor, which together dominate the UK steel market, may be sufficient to make the rises stick, particularly if German steel makers, the other main UK suppliers, follow suit.

British Steel says the price increase is necessary to compensate for rises in the cost of imported coal and ore, priced in dollars, which will go up by around 15 per cent early next year as its currency hedging cover runs out. The company also gave a warning that extra income is needed to maintain its £150 million a year investment programme.

European and American markets for steel have been dogged by over-capacity and declining prices. Analysts expect British Steel to declare a first half pre-tax profit of just £10 million next month. For the full year, to end-March 1992, John Graham at Warburg Securities is predicting a pre-tax loss of £120 million after £100 million of exceptional provisions to cover an expected 10,000 job losses.

British Steel insisted that the effort to raise prices did not coincide with any signs of a market upturn. Rather, the company was determined to recover costs and try to improve its profit margins. "We are no longer prepared to go on at the margins we are getting at the present time," said a spokesman. "We cannot do that and maintain our investment programme."

Leading American steel groups raised prices by 5 per cent on October 1.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Sydney court grants brief reprieve to Bond

ALAN Bond, the businessman, has won at least three weeks' reprieve over a bankruptcy action after a last-minute extension was granted in the federal court in Sydney. He was due to pay Aus\$244 million (£112 million) to a syndicate of banks by today or face bankruptcy, but the court granted him an extension on the deadline pending the hearing of an appeal against the Aus\$244 million judgment last month.

The court on Wednesday granted a stay of execution and set down his appeal for November 18 and 19. The banking syndicate led by HongKong and Shanghai Banking Corporation served a bankruptcy notice in September after gaining a judgment that Mr Bond was liable to pay the debt because of guarantees given last year.

Income up at Colorgen

THE recovery continued at Colorgen, the USM-quoted computerised colour matching systems company in Massachusetts. The group unveiled pre-tax income ahead to \$378,000 in the year to end-June, up from \$18,000 last time, on sales of \$9.35 million (\$5.06 million). Income per share rose from 0.1 to 2 cents. Once again there is no dividend.

RMT closes subsidiary

RMT Group, the USM company whose shares were suspended at 44p on Wednesday, has placed its sole trading subsidiary, a computer consumables supplier, in liquidation. The company said the move had been forced on it by a "significant downturn in trading and margins over the past few months, resulting in losses".

Jarvis cuts dividend

JARVIS, the construction and property group, is another casualty of the deep recession in the construction industry. The company has cut its interim dividend from 0.825p to 0.25p after pre-tax profits collapsed from £708,000 to £71,000 in the six months to end-June. This was despite a surge in turnover over £61 million to £34 million, thanks to acquisitions. Harvey Bard, chairman, said that trading conditions were "considerably worse than had been anticipated". Earnings per share tumbled from 2.6p to 0.3p. However, Mr Bard said that important construction contracts had been awarded in recent weeks. The shares lost 4p to 43p.

Profit slump hits Airflow

SHARES in Airflow Streamlines, the manufacturer of cabs for industrial vehicles and motor dealer, dived 34p to 100p after the firm passed its interim dividend (2p) following a slump in first-half profits. Pre-tax profits collapsed from £1.01 million to £5,000 in the six months to end-August. Turnover declined from £33.1 million to £31.9 million.

Income dives for Aberdeen

ABERDEEN Petroleum, the London-listed American oil and gas group, reported net income down from £234,000 to £7,000 for the six months to end-June. Earnings were 0.01p a share, against 0.45p. Turnover fell to £1.37 million (£1.53 million). Lower gas prices offset the benefit of higher average oil prices, leaving an operating profit of £100,000, against £279,000.

Hicking shares surge

SHARES in Hicking Pentecost, the textiles and specialist products group, rose from 87p to 104p in response to a 171 per cent increase in taxable profits. In the six months to the end of September, profits rose from £420,000 before tax to £1.14 million. The company is doubling the interim dividend to 1.2p a share, payable from earnings of 7.19p a share (5.1p). In July, Hicking Pentecost raised £4.5 million via an open offer of five new shares for every seven existing shares held, at 72p each. An initial £1.75 million was spent on the purchase of Nicholson Plastics, a manufacturer of water tanks.

Germany leaves rates unchanged

THE Bundesbank left its key lending rates unchanged after regional data showed the cost of living slowing to the month to mid-October to an annual 3.3 per cent in North Rhine-Westphalia and 3.7 per cent in Baden-Württemberg.

In August, annual inflation in the two states was 3.8 per cent and 3.9 per cent respectively.

Nationwide inflation figures are due next week.

But central bank anxiety about a renewed pick-up in inflation, accelerating money supply growth, high wage demands and the ballooning public sector deficit are still expected to prompt a tightening of the monetary reins by the end of this year.

Deutsche Bank, Germany's leading bank, has forecast that inflation will rise to an annual 5 per cent next year.

The Bundesbank said its M3 money supply measure grew at an annualised 4.6 per cent last month, up from 4.2

per cent in August, which had been revised from an initial 4.1 per cent.

The Bundesbank has said it is aiming for the bottom half of an M3 target growth range of 3 to 5 per cent. But Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, said last week that M3 growth could move closer to 5 per cent.

For the British government, the concern is the coming months is that an increase in German interest rates could force Britain to follow suit.

In London, the Treasury clarified a report, which had unsettled the City, that John Maples, economic secretary to the Treasury, had said there was no scope for further cuts in British interest rates.

It said Mr Maples had stated that Britain had cut interest rates several times and the differential between British and German interest rates had narrowed, making it "more difficult" to cut interest rates.

Outhwaite denies he caused 'biggest loss' to investors

By JONATHAN PRYNN

RICHARD Outhwaite, the Lloyd's underwriter accused of professional negligence by 987 names, has denied claims that he was responsible for the biggest loss by a single person in the history of the City of London.

Appearing in the witness box at the High Court for the first time in the case brought by the names, Mr Outhwaite said that "several other people" had cost investors much larger sums.

They included the entrepreneurs John Gunn, the former chairman of British & Commonwealth, Asil Nadir, the chairman of Polly Peck, and George Walker, the former chairman of Breet Walker, he said.

Even within Lloyd's, Mr Outhwaite said, at least six other syndicates had actually made larger losses in proportionate terms than his own syndicate, 317/661, which has lost a minimum of £260



Outhwaite: "lost less"

million on its 1982 year of account.

In pure cash terms at least one other syndicate had recorded losses "significantly in excess of the loss on my own syndicate," he said. This was the syndicate involved in the PCW affair of the early Eighties, the losses from which have been borne by the Lloyd's market as a whole.

Mr Outhwaite was responding to a claim made by Anthony Boswood, QC, counsel for the plaintiffs, in his opening address to the High Court.

Mr Outhwaite, appearing before Mr Justice Saville, also described how he and his family had been personally affected by the 1982 losses. He had had a £70,000 line and his wife a £50,000 line on the syndicate in 1982. With losses to the end of 1990 running at 466 per cent, Mr and Mrs Outhwaite have lost a combined £466,000.

Mr Outhwaite said that in addition he and his family are major shareholders in the RHM Outhwaite underwriting agency, which manages syndicate 317/661. The 1982 losses meant that the value of that shareholding had been "very substantially diminished," he said. When asked to quantify the fall in value, Mr Outhwaite replied: "We are talking about millions."

The case continues.

BCCI depositors join forces

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

VICTIMS of the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International from all over the world will assemble today at the Barbican Centre in London for the inaugural meeting of the BCCI Depositors' Protection Association.

The new association promises to become a powerful lobbying force to help BCCI's former depositors to recover their losses, which total \$19 billion worldwide.

Until now, pressure groups of BCCI's depositors have tended to be small and relatively ineffectual. The latest

association, by contrast, is backed by considerable funding. It has been formed by international clients of Richards, Butler, the City solicitors. All members have lost at least \$35,000, while the association's committee members have each lost more than \$500,000.

Most of the members are businesses and wealthy individuals who plan to use all the bargaining power at their disposal to win compensation. One of the committee members is the Arab Committee for Livestock Development, a

quasi-governmental body owned by the Gulf states. The association started work yesterday when Dr Adil Elias, its chairman, met Douglas Hogg, the foreign office minister who is planning to visit Abu Dhabi next week to discuss the BCCI affair with the Abu Dhabi government, the bank's main shareholder.

The association also plans to put pressure on the Federal Reserve Board in America in an effort to stop it fining BCCI, since this will further deplete the bank's resources to pay depositors.

NI job board report shows "good value"

THANKS to a more positive and forward looking management, particularly alert to export opportunities, manufacturers in Northern Ireland are weathering the current recession far better than in previous downturns, said Tony

Hopkins, chief executive, NI Industrial Development Board, commenting on the publication of the IDB's annual report for 1990-1 (Robert Rodwell writes).

Studies show that the cost per job per year of all the jobs promoted by the board since its foundation, nine years ago, averages only £1,670 - "which is good value for money and a lot less than the cost to the exchequer of a person without a job, drawing the dole and not paying tax".

Although the recession has slowed up inward investment, with only 1,294 jobs promoted from inward projects compared with a target of 2,000, this was no worse than the IDB's competitors had suffered, Mr Hopkins said.

For the first time the IDB has revealed figures on the number of promised jobs converted into actual jobs and shows it has recorded a rate of 79 per cent, which Hopkins considers high and in excess of that achieved by other regional agencies.

CWS to issue warning

By DEREK HARRIS

THE Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS), the supplier to Britain's 70 retail co-ops and itself a large retailer in London, the Northeast and Scotland, says first-half trading profits rise 35 per cent. However, this sign of continued better fortunes was linked with a warning about the year as a whole.

Sir Dennis Landau, the CWS chief executive, is due to address a CWS shareholders' meeting in Manchester tomorrow and is expected to sound this cautionary note: "A major effort will be required to achieve a comparable performance over the full year."

Because the Co-op heartland is largely in the north of the country, it has withstood the effects of recession better than some. Increasing diversification by co-ops, including the CWS has also been a factor. The CWS is not only the nation's biggest commercial farmer but is also one of the top three milk suppliers.

Sir Dennis believes that signs of recovery are hard to discern despite interest rate cuts and efforts by the government to talk the country out of recession. He will tell the Manchester meeting: "The unemployment figures continue to rise and while they do consumer confidence is bound to remain low."

The CWS trading profit for the first half to the end of June was £21.8 million against the previous £16.1 million. The improvement fell short of the last full year when trading profits rose 43 per cent. Sales in the half year were £1.4 billion. The CWS traditionally forgoes profit on about half its sales, the proportion that goes to the retail co-ops.

A factor which could have boosted the CWS first-half results is the inclusion of sales and profits from the merged North Eastern society, one of the biggest co-ops, which had no impact on the previous first half.

Lennox Fyfe the CWS board chairman, is expected to attribute much of the CWS success to its investment in modern retailing.

High-flying Attwoods comes down with a bump

THE City's love affair with the waste disposal sector has ended in tears.

First came the Caird debacle, then Shanks and McEwan rattled the market with a profit warning. Now Attwoods, never far from the headlines, has hustled home a deeply discounted rights issue that resolves short-term financial problems but leaves shareholders little hope of a share price recovery.

Just six months ago Attwood shares traded at 259p and the company appeared to be riding out the recession in some style. Aggressive acquisitions and regular equity issues continued, in true Eighties style, as if the severe economic downturn was merely a mild hanger.

Then it all turned sour. An American placing aimed at raising £40 million attracted just £12.5 million while Southeast Bank in Florida

ceased trading, depriving Attwoods of an unused \$30 million loan facility.

But the acquisitions did not stop. Three more were completed in August, at a cost of £10.7 million, even though it must have become apparent to the board that a serious funding problem loomed.

British Aerospace, Hillsdown Holdings and Asda have all discovered to their cost that institutions are in no mood for rights issues, but as Ken Foreman, the chairman of Attwoods, acknowledges, his company had no choice but to go to shareholders.

With gearing heading toward three figures and short-term credit facilities nearly exhausted, a refinancing was out of the question and an equity issue the only option. Backing from institutions has been, at best, half-hearted and the issue would never have got

off the ground without the support of Laidlaw, a 29 per cent shareholder.

The deeply discounted offer price of 100p a share, against Tuesday's price of 175p, is evidence of the difficulties faced by Attwoods' advisers. The rights issue is underwritten and Attwoods will eventually get its money. But for shareholders who supported the company's dash for growth by mopping up its shares at premium prices the outlook is bleak.

County NatWest expects nil growth in Attwoods earnings this year, leaving the shares, down 46p to 129p yesterday, on a prospective multiple of less than 10, a modest rating by the sector's recent high standards. But with Laidlaw sitting on up to 43.2 per cent of the fully diluted enlarged share capital, the stock will go nowhere. Highly speculative.



Bellak: no bid

Caird

JOHN Bellak, the chairman of Severn Trent, wrongfooted the market by disposing of his company's 29.9 per cent shareholding in Caird Group when the consensus was that a new bid was likely.

Caird shares, which dived to 37p after Bellak allowed

Severn's 100p cash offer to lapse in October 1990, had fully recovered their value, helped by timely board changes, implementation of new accounting policies and an improved trading outlook.

But, above all, the shares were buoyed by expectations that Severn Trent would return to the fray once the statutory one-year gap expired, and that Caird would once again resist a takeover bid. Speculation reached fever pitch yesterday, a year to the day after Severn's offer lapsed and Caird's shares touched 121p.

Severn, however, was having none of this. Having written down its Caird shares to 42p the company, unwilling to leap over the same trench a second time, placed the shares in the market at a maximum of 90p, its appetite for a waste

disposal company apparently exhausted by the £212 million acquisition of Biffa from BET.

For speculative investors in Caird this is truly bad news. Corporate activity in the sector is unlikely to revive, in the short term at least, so the company must be measured on fundamentals, which are not so enticing.

At the interim stage, profits were £3.11 million and the company is on course for full-year profits of around £7 million, with earnings per share of 4.9p, rising to £8.2 million and 6.4p respectively in the following year, according to County NatWest.

The shares fell 24p to 97p yesterday, trading at almost 20 times this year's anticipated earnings, which still looks extremely demanding for a company in the early stages of recovery, with almost one-third of its equity newly placed in the market. Avoid.

CANADIAN OVERSEAS PACKAGING INDUSTRIES LIMITED
(Incorporated under the laws of Canada)
NOTICE OF THE THIRTIETH ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Thirtieth Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Canadian Overseas Packaging Industries Limited will be held at the Four Seasons Hotel, 100 King Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5X 1C5, Canada, on Friday, November 22nd, 1991, at 11:00 a.m. for the following purposes:
1. To receive and consider the report of the Directors and the consolidated financial statements of the Corporation and its subsidiaries for the year ended June 30, 1991 together with the report of the Auditor-General;
2. To elect Directors;
3. To appoint Auditors and to authorize the Directors to do so; and
4. To transact such other business as may be brought before the meeting.
Shareholders are requested to bring with them to the meeting a copy of the notice of meeting and a copy of the report of the Auditor-General and to sign a copy of the notice of meeting and a copy of the report of the Auditor-General before the time appointed for the holding of the said meeting.
DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND
The Directors have declared the following dividend payable to shareholders registered at the close of business on November 22nd, 1991:
COMMON SHARES (dividend \$0.30)
\$0.30 Canadian cents per share for the year to June 30, 1991. (The corresponding figure for 1990 is 40 Canadian cents per share.)
The payment date for the dividend is December 13, 1991. The dividend will be paid in the currency of the shareholder, in accordance with the by-laws of the Corporation.
October 24, 1991 By Order of the Board
Director and Secretary
John G. Bellak
One Bloor Street East
Toronto, Ontario
M4W 1A5
CANADA
G454-454-454

Hawker boxing with shadows

Hawker Siddeley's latest attack on BTR's hostile £1.5 billion bid is fascinating. Its thrust is the question of BTR management, and includes glancing blows at what it calls BTR's selective, and convenient, accounting policies. But in terms of the bid itself, the document is little more than an exercise in shadow boxing. The real financial and solid blows that will knock BTR out of the bidding ring — or see Hawker Siddeley taken over — have yet to be made.

Both sides yesterday were out to score points under the banner of "who manages best". Under the takeover code, Hawker has until November 5 to furnish new information in its defence against BTR, and after its recent dismal interim report a full year's profits forecast is likely.

BTR has until November 12 to improve or let stand its current offer of 108 BTR shares plus £284.20 in cash for every 100 Hawker shares, with an alternative of 700p cash per share.

The tenor of Hawker Siddeley's arguments about management style will exercise fund

managers' minds more than that of the ordinary shareholder who will continue to focus on share price movements. Yesterday, Hawker Siddeley shareholders saw their shares continue to trade above the 700p cash alternative at 730p.

Hawker Siddeley argues that it has been acquisition accounting practices which have led the investment community to perceive that BTR has been great.

Hawker also maintains that BTR Nylex in Australia — an operation with which Alan Jackson, BTR's new chief executive, is heavily associated — has run out of steam.

Hawker goes on to assert that BTR, stripped of acquisitions, and whose activities "run from adhesives to wheelchairs, via crushed stone and reproduction furniture", has achieved only minimal organic growth in the past three years.

There is also the charge that the stock market has been

signalling a further relevant message, for investors have for some time demanded an above average dividend yield from BTR. Finally, Hawker asserts that there is no fit "like a glove", as BTR maintains, between the two businesses — and that BTR can add nothing to Hawker Siddeley's strengths.

Alan Jackson, meanwhile, has to live up to — or live down — his March 25 statement, published in Melbourne, that he/BTR needs "to come through with something bloody quickly" if his plans are not to be thought of as "just more hot air from another bloody Australian blowing through".

BTR's counterattack is that Hawker Siddeley management has sat for too long on its hands, and only under bid threat has revealed its game-plan for the Nineties. BTR pointedly asks

what kind of management has still, after two years, to move its London head office — and yet offers its shareholders the strategy of selling two thirds of the business. Mr Jackson insists that his offer is generous, and that action speaks louder than words. This bout has several more rounds to run. But the blows aimed at BTR's record merely invite comparison with Hawker's. They are not likely to be mortal.

More bears

For the second day in succession, the bears have been at work attempting to generate some movement in a particularly flat and lifeless stock market. Having alighted on the shares of Associated British

Foods on Wednesday, they transferred their attentions to ICI yesterday after highly speculative suggestions that Hanson was in the process of unwinding the 2.8 per cent stake acquired in a blaze of publicity last summer.

ICI shares dipped 41p at one stage before the market accepted that the Hanson sale rumours were untrue. However, the story may well prove to be premature rather than totally incorrect. While Hanson may have no plans for making its excuses and exiting from ICI, it would be astonishing if their lordships Hanson and White were to pursue any remaining predatory intentions towards our largest chemicals company.

Where once the market was quite prepared to accept the idea that Hanson was set on a deal at some time in the future, opinion has now swung strongly in the opposite direction. The leaked letter in which Lord Hanson expressed severe dissatisfaction

with the public relations efforts being mounted on his behalf was probably the final straw that broke the credibility of the idea.

The present impasse has all the elements of a classic tragedy where misery is universal and a simple solution entirely absent. For ICI, the Hanson presence is a diversion which occupies management attention when there are weightier matters to be tackled. Hanson, meanwhile, cannot depart without leaving the impression that he misread the situation.

Sir Denys Henderson and his colleagues at ICI have steadfastly refused to be panicked into wholesale restructuring and disposals on a scale that might have produced a substantial increase in the group's share price. They have kept their cool and decided to proceed with their plans for reshaping ICI's business more or less according to earlier timetables.

While Hanson therefore is showing a worthwhile profit on his excursion into ICI shares it is not sufficiently large that it could claim the operation as a huge success.

Britain must not let the sun go down on its new trade horizons

Colin Narbrough

argues that Tuesday's historic European trade pact poses risks and opportunities for the UK

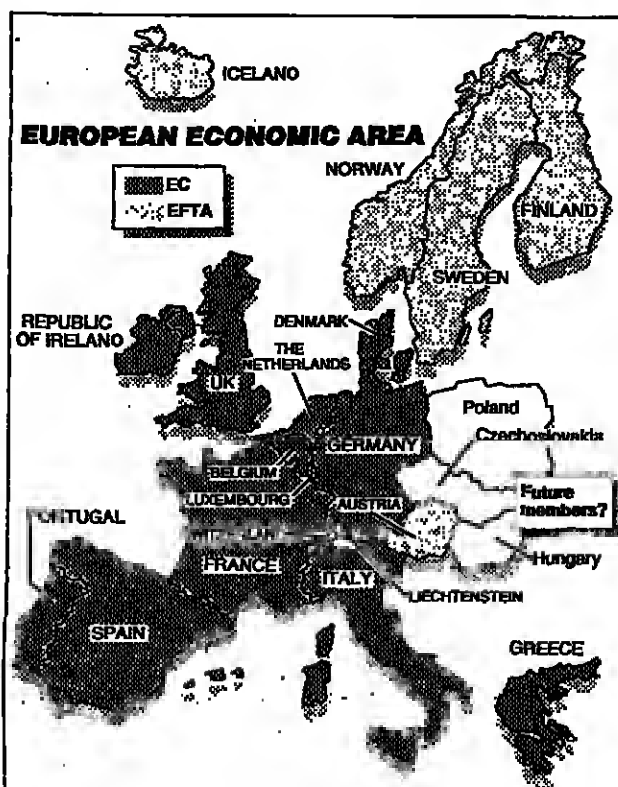
IT HAS been said of the seven members of the European Free Trade Association (Efta) that they reacted against being marginalised by the European Community at the price of becoming satellites.

The agreement struck on Tuesday will bring Efta more fully into the gravitational field of the single European market from January 1, 1993 and create a free trade zone of 380 million consumers that accounts for nearly half world trade. Trade between members of the resulting European Economic Area (EEA) is close to 70 per cent of the two blocs' overall trade.

It is unclear how much the gains of 200 billion ecus (£140 billion) predicted for the original single market will now increase. But it will be interesting to see how the trade benefits of the new alliance flow, whether the small Efta economies thrive, and whether Britain is a net gainer.

As a leading advocate of free trade, Britain has to welcome the extension of the single market to the Alpine and Nordic countries. Extending Community rules on banking, insurance, competition, company law, capital movements, public procurement and state aid must be good, whatever the uncertainties about government policy towards monetary and political union.

There is no guarantee that the EEA will be a good thing for Britain. Indeed, if the figures contain a clear message, it is that Britain has run an upward-trending deficit with the Efta countries, com-

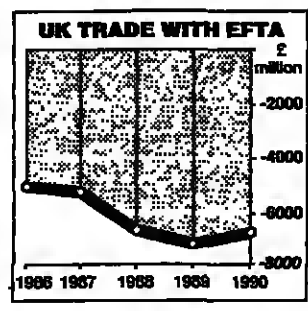
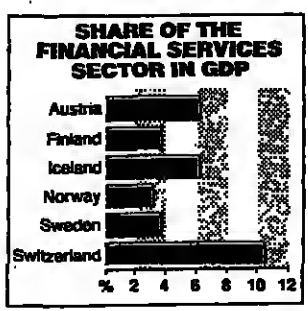


prised of persistent bilateral deficits with all seven. If one places one's faith in market forces to iron out such imbalances, the £6.87 billion deficit on visible trade with Efta last year, despite recession, should be no problem.

The fear is that Britain has steadily lost market share in manufactured goods in the Efta markets. As a car exporter, it has been displaced by the Germans and the Japanese. This is much the picture across a whole range of goods, where past loss of quality and reliability gave

other producers the advantage. To Efta's well-off consumers, price has proved less important.

Britain's largest trade deficit with an Efta member is with Norway. This climbed to £2.94 billion last year, reflecting the growth in imports of Norwegian oil. Much of the crude imports are re-exported, but the inevitable decline in output on the UK continental shelf points to increased dependence on Norway in the future. The second-largest bilateral deficit, £1.89 billion, is with Switzerland, a highly



successful manufacturer. Geography and history have inevitably made Germany Efta's main trading partner in the Community. Despite soaring imports arising from unification, Germany last year posted a £1.51 billion surplus with Sweden, and a handsome £5.2 billion surplus with Switzerland. Judged by trade, it would appear that the Efta countries will be orbiting round Germany.

Yet, there is hope for Britain's star too. While it is likely to see German dominance in visible trade extended through the EEA accord, the real opening in the agreement is free trade in services. Also, Wright, director general of British Invisibles, the lobby group for the services sector, sees a real opportunity for the City, but emphasises that it cannot be a substitute for a successful outcome to the Uruguay Round talks on free global trade. To fears that the Swiss financial services industry could pose a threat, the counters that the British services sector "thrives on competition". Doing business in a wider Europe, is, furthermore, not a zero-sum game.

Studies on the potential economic benefits of the EEA suggest that the tie-up will inject dynamism into the underdeveloped financial services sectors of most Efta states. Professor Victor Norman, of the Oslo School of Business Economics, expects the deregulation in services to produce the competition needed to overcome the problems of small domestic markets. Work along the lines of the Cecchini report, which sought to enumerate the economic advantage of the single market for the Community, shows that the Nordic members of Efta would gain more than the EC countries. Where Cecchini foresees price falls of 7 per cent for financial services in Britain, the Efta countries stand to make deeper cuts.

Apart from Switzerland, financial services make a relatively small contribution to overall output across Efta.

A tussle of two cities

THE Paris bourse is on the attack. The French stock market has launched an international marketing drive to publicise its rapid technical advance of the past five years, and to challenge London as Europe's principal share trading centre.

The initiative was driven home by Jean-François Théodore, chairman of the Société des Bourses Françaises, at a presentation to fund managers in London yesterday. "We have a huge, dynamic market which has undergone quite a few changes and should not be overlooked. We are the place to buy French equities," he said in an interview.

The bourse's campaign aims to recapture the business in French equities lost since the late Eighties to Seaq International, the City's overseas equities trading system. The bourse is also keen to promote CAC, its electronic trading system, as a market for international equities.

"We have a more efficient market for trading normal and medium-sized blocks of shares with narrower spreads than on Seaq," said M Théodore. Figures researched by the bourse show that the average spread



Théodore: revolution between buying and selling prices on Seaq is 1.3 per cent, compared with only 0.6 per cent on CAC.

The bourse is still small compared with the London Stock Exchange, but it would be wrong for the City to ignore the advances made by M Théodore's organisation.

The revolution in Paris began when CAC was launched in 1986 with just five stocks. Since then the bourse has launched Matif, a futures market, and Moneyp, an options market.

Last year saw the arrival of Relit, an automatic clearing

and settlement system. At first it was used in cover only smaller companies. Yesterday, Relit was extended to cover all French stocks. The bourse now offers settlement of all share deals in five days and bonds in three.

The bourse has shown relentless efficiency in modernising its system, while attempts by the London exchange to introduce Taurus and update the antiquated two-week account period have met delays and indecision.

The Paris market still has to cope with several disadvantages against its London rival. The principal one is French stamp duty, from 0.1 per cent to 0.3 per cent on every bargain depending on size. This, however, is likely to be abolished within the next two years.

Despite his drive to capitalise on the bourse's technical advances, M Théodore is a realist and does not expect European domination overnight. "There will not be a single financial centre in Europe in the years to come. There will be three or five, and Paris will be one," he concludes.

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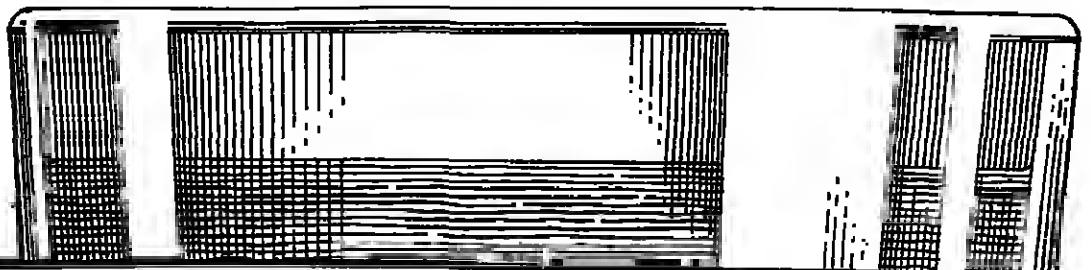
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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Food team poached

BILL Smith, who switched from being an equity strategist to head of research at BZW six months ago, has just made his first recruitment move. He has poached the highly rated food retailing team from Hoare Govett, a duo comprising analyst Bill Currie and specialist salesman David McCarthy. The pair were ranked third in the latest Exel league table for that sector. Due to start work at BZW in January, they will fill a vacancy created 18 months ago when Greville Cater — ranked No. 1 in the sector — left to join Vivian Gray. "Our food manufacturing team had been covering the sector but this means that we will now be able to restore the quality of our service," says Smith happily.

Mayoral duties

THE call for an elected mayor or government minister to run the capital and to promote British business abroad, is

being met with quiet complacency within the makeshift offices at 11 Ironmonger Lane, home to the Lord Mayor of London for two years, while Mansion House is refurbished. A source tells me that the present incumbent, Sir Alexander Graham — once described by a Bombay newspaper as "radiating jolly ho, chip chip, good-to-meet-you bonhomie" — has been to no fewer than 12 countries during his term of office, doing just that. During one trip, he was



stranded on the runway at Dallas airport for four hours, sitting next to Mexico's finance minister. As a consequence of that chance meeting, 100 Mexican businessmen and financiers will be making an official visit to London next month, led by the Mexican equivalent of the permanent under secretary to its finance ministry. As for the Lord Mayor's thoughts on a mayor of London, I'm told that he has "no view" officially but that "could change".

Winning tone

AT last some good news from the television franchise losers. Immediately after learning that Television South West, the Plymouth-based TV company, had lost its franchise, and would be making substantial redundancies, one of its presenters, David Fitzgerald, went home and re-recorded the message on his answerphone. The new recording said simply: "This is David Fitzgerald. Please leave your job offer after the tone."

Within 24 hours he had indeed received an offer — from Channel Television in Jersey. "If you don't ask, you don't get," says Fitzgerald.

Athenian trap

AS CABINET ministers converged on Hampstead and Highgate this week, to help promote the Tory candidate for that constituency, Oliver Letwin — since he is, after all, standing against Glenda Jackson — the candidate himself was unexpectedly missing. Letwin, aged 36, a privatiser, a former expert employed by N M Rothschild, and long a member of Mrs Thatcher's policy unit, flew to Athens on Monday, wearing his Rothschild's hat, but was unable to catch his scheduled flight home on Wednesday. "He telephoned his wife to say that he was in the finance ministry and that he couldn't leave the building because it was surrounded by troops," explains Andrew Thomson, his understandingly concerned agent.

CAROL LEONARD

Kinnock promises three-year funding for training councils

Equal opportunity is university policy
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
GPO Box 2476V, Melbourne, Vic. 3001
ACN 41-154 000 476

Portfolio
PLATINUM

The image is a high-contrast, black and white scan of a document page. The top half of the page is dominated by a large, curved, and heavily distorted section, likely a page from a book or a large table. This section contains numerous lines of text that are completely illegible due to extreme perspective distortion and high contrast. A prominent vertical line runs down the right side of this section. The bottom half of the page shows a smaller, more rectangular section, possibly a table or a form. This section also contains illegible text, but it appears more structured, with some elements resembling a grid or a table with multiple columns. The overall image is very dark and noisy, with significant vertical banding and horizontal streaks, suggesting a poor quality scan or a heavily degraded document.

MONEY MARKETS

[illegible]

1

Sharp falls

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

385	511 North West	260	363	+2	24.0
386	529 Severn Trent	118	123	+2	22.4
54	521 Silver Water	112	117	-1	25.7
373	528 South West	-	237	-	22.0
294	233 Thames Water	204	211	-1	22.1
404	289 Watkin Water	255	260	-1	25.0
434	235 Wessex Water	266	269	-1	25.0
423a	254 Yorkshire Water	385	370	+3	22.6

* Ex dividend + Ex aft + Forecast dividend +
 payment passed if Price at suspension + Dividend
 yield exceeds a special payment to Pre-merger bid
 Forecast earnings of Ex other Ex Rights + Ex

170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680
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● Ex dividend ● Ex adj ● Forecast dividend ● Interim payment passed ● Price at suspension ● Dividend and yield exclude a special payment ● Pre-merger figures ● Forecast earnings ● Ex other ● Ex rights ● Ex style or share with 2 Tri-fund.

Snapping up an untapped market

Britain's car clammers would rub their hands at the sight of almost 250,000 cars waiting to be nabbed. Tokyo has the world's biggest parking problem. Now an enterprising English company has sent 200 of its police-approved clamps to Japan for examination in the hope of boosting exports.

Although 60,000 cars cram into Tokyo's multi-storey parks every day, four times as many are illegally parked. They help to cause chaos in a city hurtling at the seams with six million cars.

Alan Thomas, the sales manager of Lionel Wheelock, of Middlesbrough, Cleveland, says: "Clearly there is an enormous problem. But I am sure that is just the beginning. We are happy to help out the Tokyo authorities if they want to place an order."

Visitors to the Tokyo motor show this week discovered the scale of the problem when many spent three hours travelling just 20 miles to the exhibition centre on the city outskirts.

As in Britain, Tokyo's illicit parkers cause frustration by leaving their cars at the sides of roads, reducing the width of the highway and causing traffic hiccups. Tokyo traffic police take a disarming polite view of illegal parking, at least at first. They leave a chalk mark on the front offside tyre and a chalked time on the road to jog the driver's conscience. The driver is given plenty of time to respond and the vehicle is towed away only as a last resort.

Tokyo has the worst traffic problem in the world. Kevin Eason reports from Japan on a British solution



Caught: clamps on the way

The penalty is a £50 fine and a charge for the return of the car. Only the most persistent offender would find himself in court.

The congestion, caused partly by the parking problem, is costing Japan £50 billion a year in delays and lost man hours, according to a report by Nissan, Japan's second largest car maker. A study team discovered that the speed of traffic in central Tokyo can be as little as 6mph, leading to huge rises in pollution levels and wasted fuel.

Cars are most efficient moving at a constant speed. Doubling the average speed of vehicles halves

fuel consumption, the Nissan investigators say. A car that stops at a junction and accelerates away again pumps 60 per cent more nitrous oxides into the atmosphere than one moving constantly.

The team discovered that parking was a prime contributor to slowing traffic in town as were right-hand turns and poorly timed traffic lights.

The researchers are now working with the Tokyo authorities to devise a sequence of traffic light changes to keep traffic flowing. They are also studying the possibility of building flyovers and new one-way systems to siphon off cars turning right, avoiding the build-up of traffic.

The rise in numbers of two-car households means that parking is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. The frustrated late-comer is tempted to double-park, presenting a hazard.

The Japanese answer is to insist that new car buyers produce documentary evidence that they have a parking spot before their vehicle is registered. In provincial cities and suburban areas of Tokyo, drivers without garages pay about £30 a month for a space. In central Tokyo, spaces can cost £500 a month.

The law applies to all motorists. Yutaka Kume, Nissan's president, has only one car because he has only one garage space, and he can drive only the company's mid-range Maxima model instead of the flagship Infiniti because his garage is too small to house the luxury model.



Tokyo jam: six million vehicles on the city's roads every day

A niche little earner

JAPAN is clever at spotting a niche and then filling it. Five years ago, when other car makers were intent on filling up car parks with boring saloons, Mazda made the MX-3, a little two-seater, which looked like a textbook English sports car. Buyers queued up in their thousands, particularly in the United States and in Britain Kevin Eason writes.

Now Mazda is trying to fill a niche vacated by one of its European competitors, Porsche. The 924, a little four-cylinder budget Porsche with pretty bodywork but not much performance, was dropped from the range. Mazda believes there is still a

ROADTEST

market for the buyer who wants to show off in a small sports coupé and has just launched the MX-3 in Britain.

Performance, as with the MX-5, is not the prime feature of the car, even though a host of rival models accelerate like a scalded cat.

Two engine sizes are available: a modest 1.6-litre, offering just 88bhp, and a remarkable 1.8-litre, claimed to be the world's smallest V6 production engine. Both cars come with anti-lock brakes as standard.

For such a small car, the MX-3,

which has a V6 engine, is free of the usual noise and vibration associated with fierce four-cylinder undercompensators. Acceleration is zippy and the car, probably because of very low gearing, is very high-revving.

That leads to the MX-3's biggest drawback. The 11-gallon tank 1 discovered was good for a range of only about 220 miles.

The interior is relatively spartan but, unlike that of many coupés, is surprisingly roomy, easily carrying four adults and offering 50 litres of boot space. The exterior looks terrific. The MX-3 is just plain fun to drive and brings a smile to the faces of people who see it.

Rover recycles

ROVER has signed a deal with the Bird Group to develop a recycling system for its old cars. The company has prided itself on its environmental policies in the past, but says it wants to reduce energy costs for manufacturing by 60 per cent and increase the reclaimable content of a Rover car from the present 75 per cent to a figure nearer 100 per cent.

103 miles a gallon

DAIHATSU has earned a place in the Guinness Book of Records after one of its little Charade 1.0-litre turbo-diesel models achieved 103 miles to the gallon. A team of three drivers took the car on a 3,621-mile journey around Britain, taking 169 hours, including rest stops, for the trip. The Charade used 35.155 gallons of fuel, about four tanks, costing £73.77, to average 103.1mpg.

Enduring Europe

ROVER and Proton have also been busy in endurance testing. A joint Metropolitan Police Motor Club and Rover team go into the Guinness Book of Records after driving through the 12 European Community nations in just 73 hours in a Rover 418 turbo-diesel. Members of the Lutterworth Round Table in Leicestershire, driving a Proton 1.5SE, managed 83 hours and eight minutes to cover the 4,000-mile trip.

Fancy that

WHEN the conversation lulls, entertain your friends with this bevy of motoring facts provided by the Automobile Association: 37 per cent of motorists drive fewer than 4,000 miles a year; only 19 per cent of motorists drive more than 19,000 miles annually; half buy their car from a garage and only 4 per cent at auctions; and Mr and Mrs Average drive just under 8,500 miles a year at an annual cost of £1,300 or 15.6p per mile.

Thanks a million

PEUGEOT this week celebrates its one millionth car registered in Britain since it began exporting from France in 1969. Most of the sales, more than 500,000, have been since 1986 when the company was in full production at Ryton, Coventry, and its share of the British market leapt from just 2 per cent to 7 per cent. The milestone car was presented to

Take a Seat

SPANISH executives at the London Motorfair at Earls Court this week were miffed that nobody could pronounce the name of their national car maker. MORI questioned 2,079 adults over the age of 15 for Seat to discover some furrowed brows and lip-curling versions of "Seat" and "Sart", but only a quarter achieved the correct pronunciation of "Sayar". Seat claims that the UK has the highest percentage of adults in Europe unable to recognise the word. Its Motorfair salesmen were careful about asking potential customers to take a seat while they discussed a deal.

Mild bunch

BIRMINGHAM shoppers need not worry that they are being invaded by a gang of Hell's Angels next Monday when more than 300 motorcycles will be ridden through the city centre to mark the International Motor Cycle Show



at the National Exhibition Centre. The motorcycles will represent 60 years of development, featuring such marques as AJS, BSA, Norton, Sunbeam and Ariel. The cavalcade leaves Cannon Hill park at 10.30am.

Renault revival

ALTHOUGH Renault is increasing prices by an average 1.4 per cent, the company has decided that the cost of many diesel models will remain unchanged in an effort to boost interest in the more economical cars. Renault's move comes against an optimistic background; sales in the six months since April moved up by 8 per cent against the market trend of a 21 per cent fall. That increase was achieved even though Renault stayed out of the discounting war going on between many of the other big manufacturers.



THE MAZDA MX-3 1.8i

Price - £15,449 (the 1.6i version costs £13,449). Engine - 24-valve, 1.8-litre fuel-injected V6, with three-way catalytic converter as standard, for output of 134bhp. Performance - 0 to 62mph in 8.5 seconds, top speed 126mph and fuel consumption around town of 25.4 miles to the gallon of unleaded.

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Sirrah Jay to make fitness tell

AFTER making a successful start to the season at Worcester 13 days ago, Sirrah Jay appears as the likely winner of the Glynned International Handicap Chase at Newbury this afternoon. He is my nap.

That victory was particularly meritorious for two reasons. Toby Balding, who took over the training of the 11-year-old from Reg Akehurst when he moved to Whitcombe Manor in the spring, felt that the race would be needed after a summer's rest, and the distance was short of today's two-and-a-half miles over which Sirrah Jay won three times last season.

In the circumstances, Sirrah Jay, who was at Worcester under a fine ride from Adrian Maguire when he beat the gambled-on favourite, Mou-

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

mental Lad, by a short head. Significantly, the connections of Moumental Lad have decided against taking on Sirrah Jay here, even though the handicapper had re-adjusted the weight difference between them. Also, Sirrah Jay is now the only member of today's six-strong field who has had a race this season.

While Esce, who won the Leisure Thinking Sink Chase on the corresponding day last year, has shown that he is capable of giving his best first time out, I feel Sirrah Jay will be the fittest in the field and can make the most of that advantage.

Discussing the race with me yesterday, Nick Gaselee, the trainer of Mr Entertainer, who won over today's course and distance in March, said that his grey eight-year-old had done so well out at grass this summer he felt that he was bound to come on for the run. Clara Mountain, from Tim Forster's in-form yard, is always a force to be reckoned with at Newbury while Joint Sovereignty won the corresponding race two years ago. Since he appears to have gone downhill since, everything points to Sirrah Jay keeping up his good work.

While Country Diary (4.20) looks another likely winner for the Toby Balding stable, travelling companion On His Own could be fooled by the race-fit Classic Statement, trained by

Richard Lee, in the October Handicap Hurdle. Bookies, who made a winning debut over jumps at Newbury last autumn, will take on his two opponents for the Flavel-Leisure Four-Year-Old Hurdle in good shape.

Today's only meeting on the Flat is at Doncaster, where that mecurial four-year-old Spinning certainly has the form to take the Doncaster Writers Stakes provided as everything goes right for him. Kasvity is ominated as the probable danger.

Witholden, from the in-form Newmarket stable of John Gosden, looks a sound bet to win the Wheatley Park Graduation Stakes following his good first race at Redcar nine days ago, in which he held off Mainly Mc with something in hand.

having won at the Flat at Goodwood four weeks ago. At Devoe and Exeter, a David Nicholson-Richard Dunwoody double looks likely thanks to Banker's Gossip (3.00) and Springholm (4.00).

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MANDARIN	THUNDERER	RICHARD EVANS
2.00 Classic Statement	2.00 Classic Statement	4.50 PEACE KING (nap).
2.35 Husc.	2.35 Husc.	
3.10 SIRRAH JAY (nap).	3.10 Spinning.	
3.45 Bookcase.	3.45 Wether Gold.	
4.20 Country Diary.	4.20 COUNTRY DIARY	
4.50 Welsh Bard.	4.50 Peace King.	
5.20 Knightly Argus.	5.20 Cruise Control.	

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.50 WELSH BARD.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

SIS

2.00 OCTOBER HANDICAP HURDLE (€3,470: 3m 120yd) (8 runners)
101 2/2118 ON HIS OWN 228 (D.F.G.) (Whitcombe Manor Racing Ltd) O Bolding 8-12-0 A Maguire 8 88
102 11/10/90 AUK EYE 247 (G.S.) (Mrs H. Richards) K White 7-10-15 A Charlton 8
103 0318-10 CLASSIC STATEMENT 218 (D.F.G.) (Mrs H. Richards) K White 7-10-15 W McFarland 8 88
104 001028 RAGLAN ROAD 183 (D.F.G.) (Mrs H. Richards) K White 7-10-15 W McFarland 8 88
105 145528 STONEY CREEK 8 (D.F.G.) (Mrs H. Richards) K White 7-10-15 A Tory 8
106 484-19 STORMWATCH 13 (G.S.) (D. Pearce) O Candlish 8-10-0 O Maude 7 88

Long handicap: Raglan Road 9.4, Stoney Creek 9.7, Stormwatch 9.5.

BETTING: 5-4 Classic Statement, 13-8 On His Own, 5-1 Raglan Road, 8-1 Stormwatch, 18-1 others.

1990: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

ON HIS OWN 41 3rd of 10 to Catch The Cross in Sandown (2m 5f) 75yd, good to soft) handicap hurdle last December, previous 11 2nd of 11 in Ascot (3m, good to firm) handicap hurdle. AUK EYE 1st of 9 in Run For Free in grade 1 Regency Hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, good to firm) in February, latest best Gunner Mack 2d in 26 runner Juv. H. (2m 5f, heavy) handicap hurdle last April, CLASSIC STATEMENT 12 3rd of 8 to Sweet Glow in Chesh-

2.35 FALCON CATERING EQUIPMENT NOVICES HURDLE (€3,470: 2m 100yd) (8 runners)
201 5120 CAROL'S KING 13 (D.F.G.) (Mrs C. Viney) W Carter 11-6 A McCourt 8
202 HUSO 208 (G. Cole) P Heaton 11-0 J Callaghan 8
203 MOULFAH 214 (D.F.G.) (Mrs C. Viney) W Carter 11-6 D Byrne 8
204 OUR SLIMBRIDGE 10F (Mrs S. Foster) C Williams 11-0 A Carroll 8
205 42 SIR DANIELLOT 10 (M. Watson) R Simpson 11-0 G Bradley 8
206 0 TRAVELLING GLUES 28 (P. Buckley) P Buckley 11-0 P McHugh 7
207 TURBO 24 (D. Lockett) A Chesham 11-0 Lorna Vincent 8
208 WHIPPERS DELIGHT 112F (S. Tindley) G. Charles-Jones 11-0 A Maguire 8

BETTING: 21 Travelling Glues, 11-4 Sir Daniel, 9-2 Carole's King, 7-1 Moulfa, 14-1 others.

1990: KIRKST 10-11 P. Heaton (5-1) O. Ewerton 14-1

FORM FOCUS

CAROL'S KING 49 9th of 10 to Jamestown Boy in Bangor (2m, good) novice hurdle, previous 11 2nd of 11 in Ascot (2m, good to firm) handicap hurdle. HUSO 1st of 9 in Run For Free in grade 1 Regency Hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, good to firm) in February, latest best Gunner Mack 2d in 26 runner Juv. H. (2m 5f, heavy) handicap hurdle last April, CLASSIC STATEMENT 12 3rd of 8 to Sweet Glow in Chesh-

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**Graham
Lisbon
for Hig**

Harrison troops off to Palace

Public's chance to measure

Dickson shares

